

Hammersmith

CHRONICLE

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PUB'S 21,000 FANTASTIC FESTIVE LIGHTS

The Chronicle is teaming up with staff and volunteers at the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank and encouraging readers to donate whatever they can to help needy families this Christmas. From left, volunteer driver Ken Fountayne, foodbank manager Daphne Aikens and manager of the foodbank's White City hub Kate Renshaw



Let's put a stop to Christmas hunger

Back our campaign to help feed hundreds of vulnerable people in the borough

BY JACK DIXON
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TODAY the Chronicle is launching an urgent appeal for help to feed hundreds of people in danger of going hungry in Hammersmith and Fulham this Christmas.

We are teaming up with staff and volunteers at the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank and encouraging our readers to donate whatever they can.

The charity expects to feed up to 200 people a week in the run-up to Christmas Day – its busiest time of the year.

Picking up a few extra items on your Christmas shop could make a huge difference to those living on the breadline.

The foodbank team will be working around the clock over the next two weeks to distribute emergency food parcels to the borough's most vulnerable families. But the charity is relying on gen-

erous donations from members of the community to keep its shelves stocked.

Daphne Aikens, founder and manager of the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank, said: "During the year an average of 104 men, women and children benefit from our food packages every week.

"But over the last few weeks the numbers have started to increase. We could be looking at 200 a week over the Christmas period.

"The last 10 days before Christmas is going to be very busy – we definitely want people to donate."

GPs, social workers and other care professionals can refer vulnerable individuals to the foodbank using a voucher system. The vouchers can then be redeemed at one of the borough's three foodbank stores – in Fulham, Shepherd's Bush and White City – to collect a three-day emergency food pack.

With more and more families

struggling to put food on the table, the demand is continuing to rise in the borough.

Between January and November this year, around 4,500 people benefited from foodbank packs in Hammersmith and Fulham – almost 1,000 more than for the same period last year.

"We've distributed about 45,000 meals in that time – and that's not including nappies, sanitary towels and other toiletries that we also hand out," said Ms Aikens.

"We have opened a new store in Bloemfontein Road this year and that is making an impact on numbers. But the implementation of the universal credit system is also having an effect. People are having to wait so long for their benefits."

Tinned meat, fruit and vegetables are among the items most urgently needed for the foodbank stock room.

Volunteers are also appealing

for soup, long-life milk and juice to top up the supplies. The team will even be handing out donated Christmas presents to families in need during the festive period.

Chronicle chief executive Philip Evans said: "It's easy to forget about those less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas. But even a few tins of food picked up on your next supermarket trip could make the world of difference to Hammersmith and Fulham's most vulnerable families."

"In the spirit of the season, please donate whatever you can to help the foodbank continue its fantastic work in our community."

Items can be donated to the foodbank's Fulham store at 67 Studdridge Street, preferably on a Monday morning.

For a full list of opening times and to make a cash donation, visit hammersmithfulham.foodbank.org.uk or call 020 7731 3693.

MP: Help cops find killer

MP Greg Hands has led calls to catch the killer behind a shock ambush shooting outside a fast-food restaurant in Fulham.

Trainee engineer Salim Coulter was gunned down as he left Jerky's in Walham Grove – only yards from one of Fulham's busiest shopping areas. Detectives have launched a murder investigation and are continuing to probe leads in a bid to track down the lone gunman.

Police said the killer had been lying in wait for the 24-year-old to emerge from the restaurant before shooting him in the head.

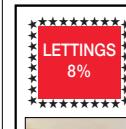
Mr Hands, MP for Chelsea and Fulham, said he was shocked and saddened by the murder, which happened in a normally quiet residential street. And in a direct appeal, he called for witnesses to help police track down the killer.

He said: "I urge anyone who can provide information on this crime – whether a local resident or a car driver, a pedestrian or a shopkeeper – to contact the Met."

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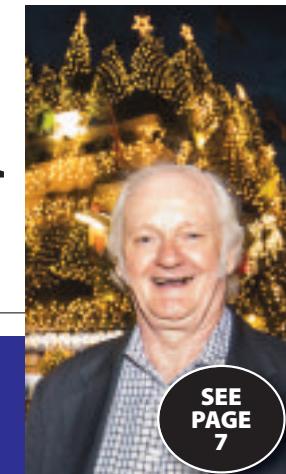
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First Lady of the West End interviewed – page 19

Groundbreaking business is out to shatter stereotype

IT is often said that the home is a woman's realm – and professional childcare roles have traditionally fallen into line with the stereotype. But a pair of London entrepreneurs hope to give men a leg up in the industry as part of a groundbreaking new business.

Manny & Me is the brainchild of Jamie Leith and James McCrossen. The agency aims to offer time-poor parents the combined service of a nanny and tutor while promoting the role of men in childcare.

Around 60 per cent of the agency's workforce are men, combining the care responsibilities of a traditional nanny with educational tuition and sports coaching. Despite a surge in the number of men taking up childcare roles, Jamie and James say old stereotypes persist.

"While there are definitely more and more men entering the industry, there is still a long way to go before working in this capacity is seen by everyone as something that men and women can do equally," says Jamie.

"We still rightly have parents ask us many questions around child protection and safety but we find every family an individual specific to their needs. That can be male or female."

"With current news surrounding historic child abuse, now more than ever the profile of the right males working with children needs to be promoted so we don't go backwards and define parenting and childcare roles by gender again."

Both men have backgrounds in education and childcare. James started out as a tennis coach before moving into football, gaining a teaching degree and travelling the world with families as a private nanny. Jamie spent the last eight years teaching in primary schools in London and leading on arts and education projects across the country.

Their business model is built on the idea of offering families more than just a nanny. It serves as a platform for parents to meet multi-skilled individuals who



Jamie Leith, left, and James McCrossen have established Manny & Me

can inform, educate and coach as well as tying the shoelaces.

"London has a wealth of great nannying and tutoring agencies," explains James. "But they are all essentially offering the same singular service. No-one is offering an individual who can be both nanny and tutor."

"Our overriding aim is to offer a service that benefits everyone – from child to parent, parent to nanny or nanny."

The agency is up and running across West London, with nannies jobbing around Fulham,

Shepherd's Bush, Notting Hill, Holland Park and Marylebone.

Jamie and James believe the capital is the perfect place for Manny & Me to thrive, with thousands of hard-working parents in need of support.

London is also home to a pool of qualified teachers and top-class graduates – two groups that make up a big chunk of the agency's workforce.

The pair believe nannying can offer respite for exhausted teachers at the end of their tether in the classroom.

"Having both been primary teachers, James and I are all too aware of the pressures teachers are under today and how all-consuming the profession is," Jamie says.

"Working as a nanny or nanny can allow for a break from the classroom while continuing a role in education that can offer a different perspective on one's pedagogy. This can lead back to school or off on a different path."

Jamie and James were recently selected as Virgin Money's start-up of the week after impressing industry experts with the Manny & Me model.

Now their aim is to expand the network across London and tackle the myth that childcare is a women-only role.

"As Manny & Me grows we are seeing a community within in it," says James. "Our aim is to continue to build on this and create something new and exciting for both families and nannies and nannies."

Jamie says: "In today's climate, families' time and money have to stretch further and further, as does that of graduates and educators."

"We have a number of plans on the horizon that will encourage the breaking down of long-standing barriers, hopefully working towards a more inclusive and multi-dimensional childcare industry."

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Parking control



Killer cocktail of air pollution and cold weather threatens thousands

FROM PAGE 1

the winter weather and heightened pollution levels like those seen across the city recently could spell great danger for those at risk of breathing problems.

"All it takes is a change in the weather plus pollution and that could create a situation that puts people at risk of life-threatening asthma attacks," he said.

With winds from France blowing in more pollution recently, air-quality alerts have been issued across the capital by Sadiq Khan for the first time.

Warnings have been displayed at bus stops, tube stations and roadsides because of high pollution levels – and parents have been warned to not to walk babies by busy roads.

According to research conducted for the British Lung Foundation, 11,677 of every 100,000 Londoners have asthma, putting the total of those most at risk at this time of the year at 1,012,862.

Mr Khan recently revealed that he is now suffering from asthma because of London's toxic air. But the mayor is now taking tough action to fight the city's pollution, with a crackdown on diesel vehicles and moves to push older polluting vehicles off the roads.

The mayor has announced that £875 million will be invested in action to improve the quality of the capital's air through to 2021-22, dwarfing the £425 million committed by the previous mayor.

Mr Khan said: "With nearly 10,000 Londoners dying early every year due to air pollution, tackling poor air quality is a public-health emergency that requires bold action. I want London to be a world leader in how we respond to the challenge of cleaning up our air, and I'm announcing that TfL will be doubling spending on improving London's air over the next five years.

"In taking action such as setting up for the world's first ultra low emission zone and purchasing only hybrid or zero-emission buses I'm ensuring that tackling air quality becomes a central part of how our transport network operates.

"London's air quality continues to breach legal levels, which is why I have taken this unprecedented action.

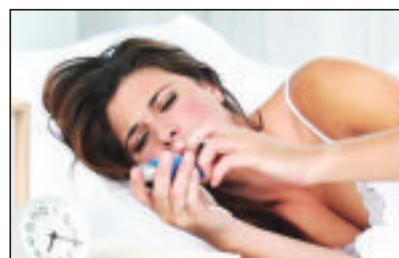
"The onus is now on the government to prove that they share my ambition. By funding a national diesel scrappage scheme and reforming vehicle excise duty, the government could also prove that they understand the enormity of our air-quality emergency."

The mayor's big clean-up has been supported by Dr Samantha Walker, Asthma UK's director of research and policy.

She said: "It is clear that action is needed and we welcome the extra investment to help clean up the air we breathe.

"Two thirds of people with asthma tell us poor air quality can make their symptoms worse, meaning they are at much greater risk of a life-threatening asthma attack.

"And there is strong evidence linking air pollution with the development of asthma in the first place. For some of the people in London with asthma, seemingly simple tasks like going to the shops, school or commuting to work can leave



This is the most dangerous time for asthma sufferers in London

them battling to breathe on days of high air pollution."

Because of the heightened danger, Asthma UK has produced a survival guide for sufferers, which was outlined by Dr Whittamore.

He said: "During the winter, people are at greater risk of having a life-threatening asthma attack. We think this is mainly because of the falling temperatures and abundance of cold and flu viruses.

"In fact, around 90 per cent of people with asthma have told us cold and flu viruses make their symptoms worse and around 75 per cent of people find that cold air can trigger an asthma attack.

"Despite this, there are a number of ways people can keep themselves safe from asthma attacks this winter. Regular use of the preventer inhaler builds up protection in the airways over time, so that when someone encounters an asthma trigger, they are less likely to have an attack.

"People with asthma tell us the humble scarf can also be a good defence against asthma attacks.

"Cold air is a common asthma trigger, so by wrapping a scarf loosely around their mouth and nose, people with asthma can warm up the air before they breathe it in, which could potentially save their life.

"Also, it is a good idea to keep warm and dry and try to breathe through your nose rather than your mouth, as your nose is designed to warm the air as you breathe it in.

"There's good evidence to show that use of a written asthma action plan makes people four times less likely to be admitted to hospital for their asthma as well as reducing their daily symptoms. For those who don't already have one, actions plans can be download from Asthma UK's website."

Dr Whittamore said asthma sufferers should "carry your reliever inhaler, usually blue, with you at all times and use your reliever inhaler as soon as you notice asthma symptoms, such as coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and tightness in the chest. You should feel a difference to your breathing within a few minutes.

"However, if you are using your reliever inhaler more than three times a week or if your asthma is waking you up at night, it is not well managed and you should see your GP."

For more information, visit asthma.org.uk/ winter or call the Asthma UK Helpline, which is staffed by expert asthma nurses, on 0300 222 5800.

Christmas comes early for schoolchildren

CHRISTMAS came early for London's Connaught Village, Hyde Park Pre-Preparatory and Preparatory School, based in Connaught Village and South Kensington, which marked the start of the festive season with a fair.

The event was complete with a real Christmas camel, Santa's grotto and singing performances from the Hyde Park School, Hawley Place School and Eaton Square School choirs.

Hosted for parents, teachers and friends of the school, as well as special guest the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the fair also featured stalls from local independent businesses and a wide array of hot food and drinks. Guests also had the opportunity to buy handcrafted gifts made by children and teachers.

Headmistress Hilary Wyatt, said: "It was great to see so many friends of the school join us in our annual Christmas celebration. It was also such an enormous honour to also have the Lord Mayor join us to enjoy this wonderful time of year.

"2016 has been another fantastic year for us – a great number of improvements have been made to ensure we keep providing the highest-quality

education possible for our pupils. Today is really a day for pupils, teachers and parents to come together and champion everything that has been achieved, as well as toast the year ahead."

Hyde Park School was founded by Lady Macpherson in 1962 under the same name before changing to Ravenstone School in 1988.

Since its inception, the school has grown from a small day nursery into a 190-pupil pre-prep and prep school.



Have say on how fire service deals with terror threat

BY GEOFF BAKER

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SADIQ Khan is urging Londoners to have their say on how the capital's fire and rescue service deals with threats of terrorism and with flooding over the next four years.

The draft London Safety Plan, published for public consultation today, includes proposals to expand the London Fire Brigade's capacity to respond to a terrorist incident.

"Last year's Paris attacks brought the emergency services' capability to respond to a marauding terrorist firearms attack into sharp focus. Delivering two manifesto commitments, the mayor commissioned an independent review into London's terror preparedness, led by Lord Toby Harris, and a review of London Fire Brigade's resources led by Anthony Mayer," said the mayor's spokesman.

"The draft plan echoes the recommendations of Lord Harris, setting out intentions to boost the number of specialist firefighters trained to move in behind the police to fight fires and help treat casualties in a terrorist incident.

"It also proposes an extensive evaluation of the role of fire rescue units and the potential to give them attendance time targets, after Anthony Mayer's review highlighted the importance of these specialist vehicles in responding to major incidents."

Londoners are also invited to give their views on whether capability to respond to flooding should be expanded.

Mr Khan said: "Keeping Londoners safe is my first priority.

"And as the capital faces new challenges and threats, we need to make sure our fire brigade is prepared and ready to respond to whatever may be around the corner.

"This new plan sets out a series of proposals for the coming years and I encourage all Londoners to have their say in the consultation, and help make sure we are doing everything we can to keep our capital city protected."

London Fire Commissioner Ron Dobson said: "This year has been a monumental one as we've celebrated 150 years of the service firefighters have given to London. Modern firefighters face a range of challenges from road traffic collisions, to flooding and chemical spillages."

"We also need to plan for the worst. Even though we hope it never happens, we must

prepare our firefighters to be part of the response to a terrorist incident.

"This consultation is a chance for Londoners to have their say on a range of work we are doing to keep Londoners safe for the next four years and how we deal with changing threats."

Other proposals in the plan include:

- In a bid to help drive further performance improvements, the brigade plans to dispatch a fire engine within 10 minutes to any incident anywhere in London 90 per cent of the time. This is an improvement on the current standard of 12 minutes on 95 per cent of occasions.
- Work to improve diversity and community relations within the brigade. Fire chiefs want to throw open the big red doors of their fire stations, allowing the community to engage more with firefighters and free up facilities for community use. As well as placing stations at the heart of the community, fire chiefs want to make sure their staff experience an inclusive culture in the workplace.

The consultation is on the Talk London website and will run for eight weeks. There will be seven drop-in events across London and four online meetings for Londoners to learn more about the brigade and ask questions.

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Cyclists slam petition on 'dangerous roads'

BY GEOFF BAKER
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WESTMINSTER cyclists have reacted with fury to a petition signed by 37,000 people which blames bikes for making the roads dangerous.

The controversial petition is calling on the Prime Minister to introduce a new law compelling all of London's 610,000 daily cyclists to have the same insurance as motorists – and that cyclists have to pass a cycling test before they are allowed to ride.

The petition, on the lobby website change.org, claims that if the roads are unsafe then it's the cyclists' fault.

The petition, launched by Owen McDermott, reads: "The public roads used by motor vehicles are becoming unsafe to use due to one particular community that feel they are eligible to cycle on public UK roads. Just like having to sit your theory and your practical test to obtain a driving licence, cyclists should have to do the same. What training have they had to use the road safely?"

"Insurance, if a cyclist throws him/herself into the back of a stationary motor vehicle, who's to blame? Not the cyclist. The driver of the motor vehicle would have to pay their own excess to repair the damages."

"I'm not sure on the percentage of how many cyclists die every year due to cycling on the road but

if you stick them back on the path in a cycle lane I'm sure a lot more people will survive."

Recent statistics compiled by London Assembly member Sian Berry revealed that more 900 cyclists were injured as a result of hit-and-run collisions in London during 2015. Eleven cyclists have been killed in collisions on London's roads this year.

Cyclists in Westminster have reacted angrily to the petition's claim that they are responsible for making the roads unsafe.

"This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard," said Sarah Green, who cycles each day to work in the West End from her home in Kensington.

"It is outrageous to blame cyclists when so many motorists are inconsiderate of us and so many lorries have been involved in so many accidents. A bicycle poses no threat to a lorry but they're saying it's our fault that there's crashes."

City worker Peter Denning said: "I cycle to work from Chelsea every day and a lot of the time the journey is terrifying because drivers pass so close or cut you up. It's crazy to say we're at fault."

"The answer is not to punish cyclists with tests and insurance but to have far fewer cars and lorries in London. If more people cycled and fewer people drove there would be a lot less pollution in this city and it would be healthier all round."

City Hall declined to comment on the petition, which will be delivered to Downing Street once it has been signed by 50,000 people.

But London mayor Sadiq Khan is showing that he's backing cyclists in the row over who should own the roads, announcing a massive investment to promote cycling in the capital.

Mr Khan is to spend a record £154 million per year on cycling over the next five years.

The investment, part of the Transport for London draft Business Plan, goes way beyond his manifesto commitment to increase the proportion of TfL's budget spent on cycling.

"This record investment will help Londoners get about quickly without having to use a car, which will benefit people's health, improve air quality and encourage the shift towards more healthy and active travel. It will also include substantial benefits for pedestrians with new pedestrian crossings and more pavement space," said the mayor's spokesman.

"Over the course of the Business Plan, up to 2021-2022, a total of £770 million will be spent on infrastructure and initiatives to promote cycling. At an average of

£154 million per year, it is almost double the £79 million per year spent over the last mayoral term.

"This investment represents an average £17 per head per annum and is on a par with the cycling nations of Denmark and the Netherlands."

Mr Khan has promised "further detailed plans for making cycling a safe and obvious choice for Londoners of all ages and backgrounds".

Over the previous mayor's last term, 2.4 per cent of TfL's budget was spent on cycling. Over the course of the new Business Plan, 5.5 per cent of TfL's budget will now be spent on cycling.

"Previous cycle superhighways have been mired in controversy with criticism of consultation processes and construction not being properly co-ordinated. The new mayor has pledged to learn the lessons from the past," said the spokesman.

"This new cycling budget, which will help achieve the target of 1.5 million cycle journeys per day by 2025-26, includes the completion of phase two of the North-South Cycle Superhighway from Farringdon to Kings Cross, which will begin construction next year."

"It also includes the extension of the East-West Cycle Superhighway from Lancaster Gate and work to deliver Cycle Superhighway 11 from Swiss Cottage to the West End, which the mayor has given his endorsement for, and next steps will be announced imminently."

The Business Plan also confirms funding for two new cycle superhighways.

Consultations will begin next year on Cycle Superhighway 4 from Tower Bridge to Greenwich and Cycle Superhighway 9 from Olympia towards Hounslow, with each route also tackling number of traffic-dominated junctions.

The record investment will deliver more joined-up cycling infrastructure right across the city, including a new cyclist and pedestrian bridge linking Rotherhithe and Canary Wharf, creating easier connectivity in the area. It will create an important connection between south-east London, Docklands and beyond, linking the forthcoming CS4 to the existing CS3 and CS2 routes north of the river.

"Having now secured record investment in cycling over the next five years, analysis will continue to be undertaken to develop a strategic cycle network that identifies potential new cycle superhighways and quietways, as well as new liveable neighbourhoods," said the spokesman.

Cycling and transport leaders across the capital have welcomed the mayor's backing of cyclists over motorists.

Ashok Sinha, chief executive of the London Cycling Campaign, said: "This unprecedented investment in cycling shows the mayor is serious about meeting his promises to triple the extent of London's protected cycle lanes, fix the most dangerous junctions and enable boroughs to implement major walking and cycling schemes."

"It will help make London a better, greener, healthier and less congested city."

Matt Winfield, London director of national walking and cycling charity Sustrans, said: "The mayor is right to secure this record investment for cycling to tackle dire air quality and improve our health, while making more efficient use of our limited road space."

"It will help more Londoners get around in a way that's easy and affordable, while making our city an even more attractive place to live, work or do business."



The Christmas tree at Paddington Recreation Ground

Rapturous applause greets turning-on of rec's Christmas lights

PADDINGTON Recreation Ground, operated by Everyone Active on behalf of Westminster City Council, threw its gates open to the public to host the 2016 Christmas tree lighting event.

The Christmas tree at the centre was purchased to support the Trees4Xmas project, which is run by the Paddington Youth Enterprise, a not-for-profit company with social-enterprise aims.

The project was set up to create employment for local youths throughout the winter months, supervised by adult volunteers, creating both social benefits and local trade.

The event saw talented local singer-songwriters Rosie Holloway and Andreas Liberos take to the stage to perform an hour of music, before the Lord Mayor Steve Summers turned the festive lights on to rapturous applause.

"Trees4Xmas is a fantastic cause and we were thrilled to see such a great turnout for the event," said Everyone Ac-

tive general manager Ashton Rennie.

"It was lovely to see so many people from the local community coming together to enjoy the live music and refreshments. We hope to continue this tradition year on year."

Paddington Recreation Ground will also be holding a Trees4Xmas stall on Friday to encourage the sale of Christmas trees and wreaths to support the local project, with free mince pies and hot drinks on offer.

On Friday December 23, stalls will be erected by a number of local businesses selling last-minute Christmas gifts. Santa will hand out presents to each child who visits, and carol singers from Harrow Road Choir Group and Church Street Choir Group will be performing Christmas carols and festive songs.

For more information, call Paddington Recreation Ground on 020 7641 3642 or visit everyoneactive.com.

Tory set to be council head

COUNCILLOR Nickie Aiken, pictured, is set to be appointed new head of Westminster City Council.

Subject to a vote by full council when it meets on January 25, Cllr Aiken is expected to be formally approved as the next leader of the council, replacing Baroness Couttie who announced last month that she would step down in January to concentrate on her work in the House of Lords.

Cllr Aiken, the new leader of the majority Conservative group, said: "I will be humbled and proud to lead Westminster City Council if I am elected

on January 25. "Westminster is a complex and unique

urban environment, but more importantly it is home to a quarter of a million people.

"As we look towards the future challenges, we must redouble our efforts to ensure Westminster secures the resources and implements the policies that deliver services our residents deserve and our one million daily visitors expect, and support our 50,000-plus businesses to thrive."

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MP's appeal for witnesses to killing of trainee engineer, 24

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LOCAL MP Greg Hands has led calls to catch the killer behind a shock ambush shooting outside a fast-food restaurant in Fulham.

Trainee engineer Salim Coulter was gunned down as he left Jerky's in Walham Grove – only yards from one of Fulham's busiest shopping areas.

Detectives have launched a murder investigation and are continuing to probe leads in a bid to track down the lone gunman.

Police said the killer had been lying in wait for the 24-year-old to emerge from the restaurant before shooting him in the head.

Mr Hands, MP for Chelsea and Fulham, said he was shocked and saddened by the murder, which happened in a normally quiet residential street.

And in a direct appeal, he called for witnesses to help police track down the killer.

He said: "I urge anyone who can provide information on this crime – whether a local resident or a car driver, a pedestrian or a shopkeeper – to contact the Met."

Salim, from White City, was shot as he climbed into the front passenger seat of a friend's car after they stopped for food at the Caribbean restaurant last Monday (December 5).

Police and ambulance teams pronounced him dead as they arrived on the scene at around 9.30pm. He was found slumped in the passenger seat of a silver and black Renault Captur with a single gunshot wound to the head. The murder happened only yards from the junction with North End Road.

The owner of Jerky's restaurant, where Salim and his friend had visited moments before the shooting, described the blood-spattered car seats outside his door.



"I didn't get that close but you could see there was quite a lot of blood on the driver's side. He was wearing a baseball cap and was slumped over the driver's seat," said the restaurant owner, who asked not to be identified.

"He was unresponsive, he'd been shot on the left hand side of his head next to his ear.

"I was right there with my staff. We were all shocked, we couldn't understand what was going on."

He said a member of staff rushed out to check Salim's pulse but that it was clear Salim was already dead.

He also said Salim's friend returned to the scene around 10 minutes later and was heard shouting "Oh, my friend is dead".

Detective Chief Inspector Noel McHugh, from the Met's Homicide and Major Crime Command, is leading the murder investigation.

He said this part of Fulham is a low crime area and that the incident had shocked the local community.

"There is a strong neighbourhood spirit in the area and I would encourage the very vigilant local community to contact police with anything that they saw during and after the attack," he said.

Officers worked through the night knocking on doors and examining CCTV cameras in an attempt to uncover crucial evidence soon after the shooting.

Detectives have since appealed for cyclists and drivers to come forward and for anyone who may have recorded images on their mobile phone or camera to share the footage with police.

Appealing directly to witnesses, DCI McHugh said: "Please think back to (last) Monday night and if you were out and saw something or heard something, no matter how minor you think it might be, then please get in touch with us."

"Your informa-



Above and left, forensic police at the scene of the killing in Walham Grove

Pictures: Joe Newman/SWNS



Right, victim Salim Coulter

Picture: Met Police

tion could be a really important piece of our jigsaw."

Local politicians moved to reassure shocked members of the community after the murder.

Mr Hands said he had been contacted by several residents with serious concerns over safety but that police were "working hard to make sure our streets are safe".

Councillor Stephen Cowan, leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council, said: "Most of the residents I've spoken to are in shock that such a murder should have happened on this quiet residential street."

"I am very sorry for the victim's family."

"I want to reassure residents that in our first two years in office, the council's Labour administration has spent millions putting the largest ever number of council-funded police on the borough's streets in history and we have increased the borough's CCTV coverage. Our residents' safety and wellbeing is our highest priority."

Anyone with information is asked to call the Met's incident room on 020 8785 8099 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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New diabetes test for obese, pregnant women

A NEW, cheap test to identify obese women at high risk of developing diabetes in pregnancy has been devised by British scientists.

Currently all obese women are considered at risk of gestational diabetes but only a quarter go on to develop it.

Obesity is a known major risk factor for the disorder by increasing the likelihood of getting it three to five fold.

It happens when high blood sugar develops during pregnancy and usually disappears after giving birth.

Although it can occur at any stage of pregnancy, it's more common in the second half and women considered at risk are given a screening test called an oral glucose tolerance test, which takes about two hours.

It involves blood tests after fasting overnight and then two hours after drinking a glucose drink. But obesity is rising and one in four UK adults is obese.

Women with the disorder require intensive antenatal care to control blood glucose and to identify other common complications, particularly foetal macrosomia – a newborn who's significantly larger than average.

The King's College London study looked at how to correctly identify obese women with heightened risk early in pregnancy so early treatment can be given.

From the many factors tested, those that predicted gestational diabetes included older age, disease in a previous pregnancy, higher blood pressure and anthropometric measures such as skin thicknesses, and waist and mid-arm circumferences.

A number of blood tests, such as haemoglobin A1c, added strength to the predictive tool.

Out of the 1,303 women in the study, 337 were affected by gestational diabetes.

Lead author Dr Sara White said: "There is currently no accepted strategy to identify obese women at high risk of gestational diabetes, early in pregnancy."

"Today, all those classified as obese are considered high risk. With escalating rates of obesity worldwide, a more accurate way of defining risk is necessary in this group."

"In this, the largest and most comprehensive study to date, we have used an extensive range of different measures to develop prediction tools."

The study was published in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

Mums against driverless cars for school run

AN overwhelming number of London mums have said that there is no way they would let their children go to school in a driverless car.

Although City Hall and the government have both expressed enthusiasm for the new technology, most mums do not see its appeal, according to a new survey.

The survey, by car dealership Citygate, revealed that 85 per cent of mums would not let their children be taken to school in a car that was driven by a computer.

This year, City Hall announced that it would be keen for trials of driverless cars to be held in the capital. And in April, Volvo announced that a limited number of semi-autonomous driving cars will take to the streets of London early next year, before the



scheme is extended in 2018 to up to 100 vehicles.

Then-Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin also announced: "Driverless cars are the future of the motoring industry and we are determined that the UK leads the way in developing this new technology."

"These vehicles will make road travel safer, smoother and smarter, transforming journeys for millions of people. I expect to see thousands of these cars on London's streets in the years to come."

However, a Citygate spokesman said: "Women surveyed were less enthused by the idea of using driverless cars for school drop-offs, with just 15 per cent of female respondents saying they'd hand over their keys."

Dads are not that excited about the new cars either, with 73 per cent of fathers saying that they would not let their children be driven to school driverlessly.

However, the vehicles – a version of which is being tested at Greenwich by the Gateway Project, which claims autonomy is probably the most significant change in transport that we've seen in 100 years – did have some appeal to London motorists: 27 per cent of those surveyed said that they would use them when they were drunk.

Pub's 21,000 lights bring festive cheer

BRITAIN'S most festive pub – in Kensington – has added even more Christmas trees to its annual display this year.

The changes bring the new record to 90 trees and 21,000 lights.

The Churchill Arms is famous for its festive decorations, which took a week-and-a-half to put up and include five interior trees, reindeer lights and even stars on the roof.

Landlord Gerry O'Brien, 65, has decked out the pub with festive cheer for 32 years with a display that began with just one tree.

The pub spends more than £30,000 on decorations annually.

Some £25,000 is spent on flowers alone. The pub is adorned with hanging baskets and flower boxes in the summer.

Gerry said: "We want to make the lights look better every year and it really does make a striking impression."

"This year we've got a lovely reindeer outside the door in front of the Queen's picture, so it looks like she's taking a ride to Buckingham Palace on the sleigh."

"We've got the 18ft tree outside, five inside, and then all the others, with 21,000 lights."

"We do it for the area. It's lovely to see people's reactions, and Christmas is such a special time of year. It's only once a year and we should make the most of it and enjoy it."

"It's good for business too. People come from all over to look at the lights."



Gerry O'Brien, landlord of The Churchill Arms in Kensington, where 90 trees and 21,000 lights ensure Christmas is a wonderful time of the year
Pictures: Adam Gray/SWNS



Square Mile is No 1 for arts and culture

THE Square Mile has been voted the best area in England for arts and culture.

The City of London beat two other local authorities in London – Kensington & Chelsea (second place) and Westminster (third place) to the top slot. Scarborough and West Somerset came fourth and fifth in the Index for England.

The poll by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce is produced in collaboration with the Heritage Lottery Fund to reveal which areas are best at using heritage to foster a distinctive identity.

The annual index combines more than 120 metrics – from historic buildings to local delicacies – and measures new forms of heritage activity, such as community initiatives and voluntary

teering, to come up with its results. Vivienne Littlechild, chairman of the City of London Corporation's culture, heritage and libraries committee, said: "I am delighted to hear that the City of London has been given top place. It confirms our firm belief that the Square Mile's cultural hub is one of our greatest assets."

"From Guildhall Art Gallery and the Barbican Centre to the Museum of London and the Guildhall School, the City of London has now become a top visitor attraction for people who take their arts and culture seriously, as well as being a global business centre."

After launching last year, the index has been adopted as an official performance measure by government in the recent Culture White Paper.

Assembly urges mayor to demand tougher action on dangerous dogs

CITY Hall is calling on the mayor of London to demand tougher action on the growing problem of dangerous dogs, following more than 300 seizures by police after attacks in the capital this year.

London Assembly members say current laws are not fit for purpose in protecting residents against dog attacks.

The assembly has passed a motion that the mayor should write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request a formal review of the Dangerous Dogs Act.

The assembly believes the Act – which uses breed-specific legislation to prohibit certain types of dog – has not reduced dog-bite incidents and fails to protect dog welfare.

The Met's dangerous dogs unit has seen a seven per cent increase in dog attacks this year – and 300 dangerous dogs have been put down.

Assembly Member Steve O'Connell, who proposed the motion, said: "This is about recognising the current policies designed to protect people from dangerous dogs aren't fit for purpose, as well as improving animal-welfare standards."

"It's important that, if the current system is not working, we look at other ways of handling what is a growing problem."

"The consequences for victims of a dog attack can be devastating and I hope the relevant authorities take note of our motion."

Leonie Cooper AM, who seconded the motion, said: "It's abundantly clear that the breed-specific legislation isn't effective. We need stronger, more extensive legislation to reduce the number of dog attacks and bring irresponsible owners to justice."

"Government must work not only with the police and councils, but organisations such as Battersea Dogs & Cats Home too, to consider the best way to protect people from dangerous dogs and safeguard animal welfare."

"It's reassuring to see we have cross-party consensus over what is a really important issue."

The full text of the motion is: "The assembly notes that the Dangerous Dogs Act is 25 years old this year. It is noted that the Metropolitan Police will destroy around 300 dogs that have been seized by its officers this year."

"The Status Dog Unit, a special team of police officers only dealing with dangerous dogs, has seen a seven per cent increase in seizures in 2016."

"The Act's aim, to use breed-specific legislation to prohibit certain types of dog, has not reduced dog-bite incidents or the number of prohibited types of dog. The assembly accepts that BSL has not had a positive impact on improving human safety or protecting dog welfare."

"The assembly notes that other authorities have started to review and overturn BSL such as the Netherlands, Italy and Lower Saxony, Germany, and have identified other ways of reducing dog-bite incidents."

"The assembly calls on the mayor to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking for a formal review of the legislation as proposed by the RSPCA and for London bodies such as the Metropolitan Police, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, the stray dog services of the London boroughs and relevant non-governmental organisations to be part of this review."



'I couldn't get a game after I snubbed pervert footy coach'

AN ex-footballer who played for Leyton Orient has also claimed he was abused by former Chelsea chief scout Eddie Heath when he was 15 years old.

Peter Hodges, now 69, has told of occasions he spent "uncomfortable" evenings alone with Heath at his flat in Norman Road, Leytonstone.

Mr Hodges, of Leigh, Essex, was taken on by the football

club as a teenager in the early 1960s.

He first met Heath at the Leyton Orient football ground and he was then invited to the coach's home.

Mr Hodges said: "Eddie Heath was quite friendly with everyone. It was first-name terms, laughing and joking in the changing rooms.

"He asked me to go around his place – I was about 15 at

the time and I did not know any different.

"It was quite genial. He gave me a drink of pop and a magazine while he pottered around in the background."

However, Mr Hodges said Heath's behaviour became increasingly strange as time went on.

Mr Hodges said: "I had left school by then and he told me to pack up my job and he

would get me on the ground staff, which was the first step to becoming a player back then.

"I left my job but the manager at the time, Johnny Carey, came to my parents' house and said Eddie had jumped the gun and I couldn't get on the ground staff until I had done a bit more training."

Mr Hodges says he later stopped visiting Heath at his flat after he was trapped on the sofa by the coach.

"The last time I went to see him at his flat he got a little bit too close for comfort," said Mr Hodges.

"He pressed me against the arm of the sofa.

"I couldn't move – he was a big man. I couldn't tell whether he'd touched my genitals or not but it was horrible – he was certainly assaulting me physically.

"I became very uncomfortable and I just thought it wasn't right and I wouldn't go around there any more. After that, all of a sudden I couldn't get a kick of a football, I couldn't get a game."

Former Chelsea striker Gary Johnson alleged last week he was sexually assaulted by Heath while Heath worked as a scout for the Stamford Bridge side in the 1970s.

Jimmy Scott, an Orient captain when Heath worked at Brisbane Road, has also stepped forward to claim the coach was a known child abuser during his time at the East London club.

Heath died in the mid-1980s long before claims about his conduct first surfaced.

Leyton Orient Football Club has refused to comment on allegations surrounding Heath at this



Peter Hodges claims he was abused by former Chelsea chief scout Eddie Heath

Picture: Newsquest/SWNS

time, due to ongoing police investigations into historic child sex abuse at clubs across London.

Mr Hodges, who later played in the Tottenham Hotspur youth side but never signed a professional contract, says he wants the public to understand the scale of the abuse carried out by Heath.

"We were all young lads and all we wanted to do was play professional football," said Mr Hodges.

"It is by the grace of God I did not go around to his flat again.

"I just knew he wasn't right. I knew he had gone to Chelsea and when this all started it made me feel sick. I said to my wife 'I bet it was Eddie Heath'.

"I just want it out there that this was happening even in the early 1960s. It was going on long before the 1970s."

Mr Hodges has reported his story to the hotline, set up in the wake of the national scandal, to allow footballers to report abuse.

Crossrail firms face court over worker's death

THREE Crossrail construction firms are to be prosecuted after one worker died and two were seriously injured working on the project.

Crossrail connects East London and West London with tunnelling under Central London and is billed Europe's largest construction project.

Rene Tkačík was crushed to death by falling concrete on March 7 2014 while working on the Fisher Street crossover tunnel.

Terrance "Ian" Hughes was crushed by a tipper truck and suffered severe leg injuries while working between the Bond Street and Paddington section of the tunnel on January 16 2015.

Six days later Alex Vizitiu was working in the same stretch of the tunnel when he suffered head and hip injuries when he was struck by a high-pressure mixture of water and concrete during a routine operation to clean concrete lines.

The Health & Safety Executive informed BAM Nuttall Limited, Ferrovial Agroman (UK) Ltd and Keir Infrastructure & Overseas Ltd that they will be prosecuted.

HSE's head of operations Annette Hall said: "We have informed the three contractors that they will each be prosecuted for the death of a worker and injuries sustained by two others, in three separate incidents on the construction project.

"These were all serious incidents and resulted in the death of one of their workers.

"We have concluded following thorough investigations that there is sufficient evidence to prosecute and it is in the public interest to do so."

BAM Nuttall of Camberley, Surrey, Ferrovial Agroman, of West London, and Keir, of Sandy, Bedfordshire, face four charges, each, two relating to the death of Mr Tkačík and one each relating to injuries to Mr Hughes and Mr Vizitiu.

The three firms are due to appear before Westminster Magistrates' Court next month.

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Most of capital's young drivers are rubbish without sat-nav – survey

MOST of London's young drivers are rubbish without their sat-nav, a new survey has revealed – and almost half of them would call off their trip if it broke.

The survey, by car-leasing company Cars On Demand, revealed that the majority of millennials – aged 18 to 34 – struggle to read an A to Z.

"One direction? It's more like wrong direction – 67 per cent admit they struggle to read a map and 44 per cent would abandon a journey if their sat-nav broke down," said a spokesman for Cars On Demand. "We discovered that more than half of us, 54 per cent, would struggle to read a road map these days.

"However, if we look more closely, 67 per cent of those were aged between 18 and



44, and 43 per cent of them could be described as millennials.

"Only 16.5 per cent were 55 or over, demonstrating perhaps that we are slowly but surely losing the skills of finding our way by good old fashioned map-reading."

The survey also revealed that 91 per cent of people aged 18 to 24 do not even keep a map in their car, whereas there's an A to Z in

the glove compartments of cars driven by 66 per cent of drivers aged more than 45.

"Maybe it's because they've gathered so much wisdom over the years – including the fact that when a phone battery dies, if you don't have anything else to fall back on, you're pretty much stuck," said the spokesman.

"Overall, however, people feel safer using GPS than a printed map, with 85 per cent of us agreeing with that.

"But on the other hand, perhaps we're also losing a bit of common sense as the survey showed that more than a third of us would take an illegal turn, or drive down a bus lane, if our sat-nav told us to."

Musical tackles tricky subject of suicide

Suicide is the single biggest killer of men under the age of 45. Yet research reveals that men often have real difficulty opening up and talking about their problems. As part of the London Weekly News and South London Press Change Is Possible appeal, reporter Jack Dixon meets the team behind a new West End musical that aims to put suicide in the spotlight

FIVE friends gather on the evening before a funeral. Dean, someone they thought they knew so well, has taken his own life.

As the plot slowly unravels, each must examine their own lives, their own relationships, as they struggle to come to terms with the sudden and unexpected loss.

This is the framework for a new musical, *Catch Me*, which opened in the West End last month.

But it is also a familiar story faced every day by the thousands of people whose lives have been affected by suicide.

It remains the single biggest killer of men under the age of 45 in the UK – claiming more lives than car crashes, alcohol abuse, and even cancer.

According to male suicide charity CALM, the Campaign Against Living Miserably, more than 4,500 men kill themselves every year in Britain.

Suicide is a particular problem among the male population, research suggests, with men three times more likely than women to take their own lives.

Yet, despite all the warning signs, men still find it difficult to open up about their feelings and seek help for mental health problems.

A CALM study published in November revealed that less than half of men who said they had felt depressed reached out to others for help, while more than two thirds of women did.

Arnoud Breitbarth and Chris Czornyj, the writers behind *Catch Me*, believe we must all learn to talk about our emotions. Top: a scene from the musical, which opened in the West End last month

"The central message of the show is 'do not be afraid to open up and ask for help if you need it,'" says Arnoud.

"All the characters are struggling with actually being able to tell their friends or other halves what they really want. Most of them fit a specific type and they cannot really break out of these locks."

Chris adds: "It's a taboo subject, it's painful to talk about it let alone sing about it. But that's what we did, we put it in a musical – and *Catch Me* is the result."

The show tells Dean's story, in two halves, as his five friends wrestle with the



Arnoud Breitbarth and Chris Czornyj, the writers behind *Catch Me*, believe we must all learn to talk about our emotions. Top: a scene from the musical, which opened in the West End last month

consequences of his sudden death.

Reuben Beau Davies plays Dean, whose struggle is gradually revealed during the show's second act.

"At first you think, 'how do I get into the head of someone who has committed suicide?' But actually this play is not about that at all," he says. "Dean is just an ordinary guy. It's looking at suicide from the angle that it could happen to anyone."

Reuben has brought his own personal experience of mental health problems to the role. He was only 12 years old when a close friend took his own life.

"It was very weird, having that experience so young. It made me very wary," he adds. "Three of my friends suffer with depression and have been prescribed medication for it, but I'm not sure that's really the answer. It's like you plug them in for a short time and then you take the plug out and they are gone again. I meditate every morning because I believe you should look after your brain in the same way that you look after your body."

"What I really love about the piece is that most of what you take away is what is not said, rather than what is said," she adds. "I believe theatre should be something that has a relationship with what people are experiencing in everyday life. That's what 'the arts' needs to be. It's a great way to tackle a really serious issue that has a big impact on society."



***Catch Me*, a new musical, tackles the issue of suicide**

■ For many people who experience ongoing suicidal feelings, it can seem as though there's no hope of recovery. But there is support available that can help.

Visit your GP

You may feel worried about talking to your doctor, but they will be used to helping people in your situation. Your GP can refer you to other forms of treatment and medication.

Talking treatments

These involve speaking about

your feelings with a trained professional, such as a counsellor or psychotherapist. They may be able to help you understand why you're experiencing these feelings and suggest ways of resolving them.

Medication

Your doctor may prescribe you psychiatric medication to help you cope with your symptoms. This could include antidepressants, antipsychotics or mood stabilisers.

Crisis services

There are lots of services available at short notice to help you resolve an immediate mental health crisis. Specialist teams can support you at home, through drop-in centres or in dedicated 'crisis houses'.

Telephone support

You may find it helpful to speak to someone about your problems over the phone. Many helplines are available out-of-hours and provide a confidential, non-judgemental service.

All bus fares frozen



The Mayor, Sadiq Khan, is freezing all bus fares, including bus passes and caps. Two pay as you go Hopper journeys within one hour still £1.50. Search TfL fares

Always use the same card.

MAYOR OF LONDON

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Inspector says no to window removal appeal

A PROPERTY owner who fitted uPVC windows to a property in Warwick Close, off Kensington High Street, has lost an appeal against a planning enforcement notice to remove them.

The independent Planning Inspectorate made its ruling after hearing that planners from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea had issued the enforcement notice in May after discovering that uPVC windows had been fitted to the property at 2 Warwick Close, W8 without planning permission.

The owner had said the windows were fitted to help reduce noise from traffic on Kensington High Street and had cited a building elsewhere in the borough where the council had permitted the fitting of uPVC windows to help reduce traffic noise.

However, the Inspector noted the council's decision that the windows fitted at this property were in keeping with its character, which was not the case at 2 Warwick Close.

In the Planning Inspector's written decision it stated that the installation of the uPVC windows had "unacceptably harmed the character and appearance of the host building", the residential block of which it forms a part and the surrounding area, and views from within both the Edwards Square/Scarsdale & Abingdon Conservation Area and the Holland Park Conservation Area.

Following the Inspector's decision, the owner of the property has two months to replace the windows to match those that existed previously.

Cllr Timothy Coleridge, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, said: "I am pleased that the Planning Inspector has upheld the enforcement notice we served earlier this year.

"It was our belief that the windows were out of character and would not have received planning permission, had it been applied for. Borough residents who are thinking of making alterations, including changes to the materials of their windows are encouraged to seek guidance through the council's planning advice service."

Palace man: case dropped

A CHINESE student accused of carrying a folded knife in Buckingham Palace claiming to be "on a mission to kill the Queen" has had his case discontinued, a court heard this week.

Hang Zhang, 25, was arrested after a "violent" struggle with police, having made it through the gate of the Royal residence on the afternoon of August 12.

When officers searched him they found the small blade in his shoe. The University of Sheffield student had previously pleaded not guilty to a charge of possessing an offensive weapon in a public place.

A charge of making a threat to kill was later dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Westminster's Chief Magistrate Emmad Arbutnot said: "The case against Zhang has been discontinued."

Her Majesty is not believed to have been at the Palace at the time of the incident, which was one of several security alerts sparked by intruders this year.

Convicted killer Denis Hennessy, 41, was arrested in the Palace grounds in May and jailed for four months at Westminster Magistrates Court.



Charity supporters, from the left, are Mary Nightingale; eight-year-old Selina Dattani, whose family is supported by Rainbow Trust; Annabel Croft; Rupert Young and Polly Walker

Picture: Sonita Fitoussi

Carols are a sound move for children's charity

HUNDREDS of guests filled the pews of St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, for a celebrity-supported carol concert which aimed to raise £30,000 for Rainbow Trust Children's Charity.

ITV presenter and Rainbow Trust Patron Mary Nightingale hosted the event, which supports families caring for a child with a life-threatening or terminal illness.

Other guests and speakers included Polly Walker of *Patriot Games* and fellow Rainbow Trust Patron, Annabel Croft, *Prime Suspect* star Colin Salmon and Rupert Young, BBC's *Merlin*.

Guests enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies and heard a range of festive readings, including one read by a young sister from one of the families supported by Rainbow Trust.

Farleigh School Chapel Choir, from Andover, sang arrangements of classical Christmas songs and led the congregational singing of traditional Christmas carols. Trailblazers, an award winning barbershop quartet from London, also performed festive songs.

Emma Haines, Rainbow Trust's Director of Marketing and Fundraising,

says: "Rainbow Trust's annual carol concert is one of our most admired and popular events and this year was no exception."

"Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone for supporting this event. Christmas can often be one of the hardest times of the year for the families we support."

"Everybody really got into the festive spirit at the concert while fundraising for a fantastic cause, meaning that our family support workers can help those families have the best Christmas possible."

Have your say on future of London's fire service

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADIQ Khan is urging Londoners to have their say on how the capital's fire and rescue service deals with threats of terrorism and with flooding over the next four years.

The draft London Safety Plan (LSP), published for public consultation today, includes proposals to expand the London Fire Brigade's capacity to respond to a terrorist incident.

"Last year's Paris attacks brought the emergency services' capability to respond to a marauding terrorist firearms attack (MTFA) into sharp focus."

"Delivering two manifesto commitments, the Mayor commissioned an independent review into London's terror preparedness, led by Lord Toby Harris, and a review of London Fire Brigade's resources led by Anthony Mayer," said the Mayor's spokesman.

"The draft plan echoes the recommendations of Lord Harris, setting out intentions to boost the number of specialist firefighters trained to move in behind the police to fight fires and help treat casualties in a terrorist incident."

"It also proposes an extensive evaluation of the role of Fire Rescue Units

(FRUs) and the potential to give them attendance time targets, after Anthony Mayer's review highlighted the importance of these specialist vehicles in responding to major incidents."

Londoners are also invited to give their views on whether capability to respond to flooding should be expanded.

Sadiq Khan, said: "Keeping Londoners safe is my first priority, and as the capital faces new challenges and threats, we need to make sure our fire brigade is prepared and ready to respond to whatever may be around the corner."

"This new plan sets out a series of proposals for the coming years and I encourage all Londoners to have their say in the consultation, and help make sure we are doing everything we can to keep our capital city protected."

London Fire Commissioner Ron Dobson said: "This year has been a monumental one as we've celebrated 150 years of the service. Firefighters have given to London. Modern firefighters face a range of challenges from road traffic collisions, to flooding and chemical spillages."

"We also need to plan for the very worst. Even though we hope it never happens, we must prepare our firefighters to be part of the response to a terror-

ist incident. This consultation is a chance for Londoners to have their say on a range of work we are doing to keep Londoners safe for the next four years and how we deal with changing threats."

Other proposals in the plan include:

■ In a bid to help drive further performance improvements, the brigade plans to dispatch a fire engine within 10 minutes to any incident anywhere in London 90 per cent of the time. This is an improvement on the current standard of 12 minutes on 95 per cent of occasions.

■ Work to improve diversity and community relations within the brigade. Fire chiefs want to throw open the 'big red doors' of their fire stations, allowing the community to engage more with firefighters and freeing up facilities for community use. As well as placing stations at the heart of the community, fire chiefs want to make sure their staff experience an inclusive culture in the workplace.

The consultation is on the Talk London website and will run for eight weeks.

There will be seven drop-in events across London and four online meetings for Londoners to learn more about the brigade and ask questions.

Major Peake's spacecraft to be a museum star

THE Soyuz spacecraft used by Tim Peake in his Principia mission is to go on display at the Science Museum in Kensington. Science Museum Director Ian Blatchford signed the landmark acquisition document for Soyuz TMA-19M in the presence of RSC Energia, the craft's manufacturer, and ROSCOSMOS, the Russian Space Agency, marking the 50th anniversary of the first ever unmanned Soyuz flight.

"The spacecraft used by the UK's first ESA astronaut in his historic mission to the International Space Station (ISS) is set to inspire future generations of space scientists as it becomes the first flown human spacecraft acquired by the Science Museum Group for the UK's national space technology collection," said a spokesman.

Ian Blatchford said: "Russian ingenuity led to the birth of the space age and today it still plays a critical role, notably in long duration missions to pave the way for the next great leap into the cosmos."

"It is a great honour to be here to officially acquire the first flown human spacecraft in the Science Museum Group collection, one which allowed Tim Peake to make his historic journey to the International Space Station which we plan to share with the public to help inspire future generations."

The museum spokesman added: "The display of this historic object, which carried Peake and his crewmates Yuri Malenchenko and Tim Kopra in Expedition 46/47 to and from the ISS, will build on the success of the Science Museum's recent Cosmonauts: Birth of the Space Age exhibition which was visited by 140,000 people in Britain, becoming the Museum's most successful exhibition ever."

Vladimir Solntsev, General Director of RSC Energia, commented: "We are very honoured that a flown descent vehicle produced by our corporation will take its rightful place in the collection of one of the most important science and technology museum groups in the world. I would like to hope that this special symbol of Russia will become one of the highlights of the Science Museum Group collection, attracting many new visitors."

Further details about the display of the Soyuz TMA-19M will be released in due course.



Astronaut Tim Peake's spacecraft will feature at the Science Museum in Kensington

Planners tipped for top accolade

KENSINGTON and Chelsea planners are in the running to be named the best in London.

The council has been shortlisted in two categories at the London Planning Awards, up for the Best Planning Authority category "for its proactive use of Section 215 notices to secure significant improvements to the historic environment in the Best Heritage-Led Project category". Also, the St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Plan is shortlisted in Best Community-Led Project.

The Awards are organised by London First, in partnership with the Mayor of London, London Councils, the Planning Officers Society and the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Advertisement feature



Pedalshed and Sabani Linens are taking part in the promotion organised by the Portobello Café Society

Market stalls and shops tempt shoppers from and far and wide

BY CHARLIE STONG
shuz@slp.co.uk

Twenty two shops and stalls in the Portobello and Golborne Road market area are taking part in a promotion organised by the Portobello Café Society.

The latest addition is Morelli's Gelato, where visitors can get a slice of panettone, a cup of mulled wine and a free coffee card for just £2.95.

Among the other stops are: 1Second Cup Coffee, 216 Portobello Road, offering Holly Jolly combos of a medium drink and mince pie for £3.80 or a medium drink and scone with clotted cream and jam for £5.30.

Market stall Sabani Linens, offering a free 100 per cent Egyptian cotton percale pillowcase with every duvet cover purchase.

Market stall Pedalshed, offering a free shot of premium Danish akvavit with the purchase of two or more luxury bicycle saddle covers.

Panella London (at the Goldfinger Factory Kitchen), 15 Golborne Road, offering a tempting selection of festive



Sicilian street food

Market stall Moon Karma, offering a 15 per cent discount on yoga supplies and accessories for customers who pop by and take a turn at playing the singing bowl.

Happy Donuts, 254 Portobello Road, offering any coffee for £1 and any donut for half price

Coffee Plant, 180 Portobello Road, offering one free coffee with any purchase of £10 or more

The Chipping Forecast, 29 All Saints Road, offering a 20 per cent discount on food & drink Tuesday to Sunday, except after 7pm Friday and Saturday, as well as a chance for diners to choose Jude's Laphroaig Hot Toddy ice

cream with their pudding.

Toddy Trail offers are designed to tempt market area shoppers from near and far, encouraging locals and visitors alike to explore the area and venture off the beaten track.

For Londoners in particular the promotion has the added appeal of two chances to win a pair of Electric Cinema Portobello tickets and a 500ml tub of Jude's Laphroaig Hot Toddy ice cream.

Just collect stickers from five Toddy Trail stops, fill in contact details, and leave the Toddy Trail leaflet at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Street Trading Office, 72 Tavistock Road W11 1AN before 1pm on Wednesday 28 December.

Winners will be announced that day and will need to collect their prizes from the same location between 3 and 7 January 2017.

For more Toddy Trail information visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/ourmarkets

To learn about the Portobello Café Society visit www.portobellocafesociety.org.uk.

Help market in Great British awards

The Great British Market Awards are organised each year by the National Association of British Market Authorities.

Gongs will be given out in Birmingham on Thursday, January 26.

You can help Portobello & Golborne Market win the title of 'Britain's Favourite Market' by voting at www.nabma.com.

There is no limit to the number of votes

cast. With the cut-off on Tuesday, January 10 2017 please get voting early and often – and get your friends and family to vote as well.

To cast your vote for Portobello & Golborne in the Great British Market Awards, visit www.nabma.com.

For more Portobello & Golborne Market information visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/ourmarkets.



Nippa
Founders
Catherine
Brice and
Sarah Brice

Markets have this Christmas wrapped

Shop local this Christmas and get your presents wrapped at a first-of-its-kind fundraising gift wrap stall at Portobello and Golborne Market.

On Saturday in Portobello Square W11 (the pedestrianised section of Tavistock Road between Portobello Road and Basing Street), shoppers can bring gifts to be wrapped, and can also purchase limited-edition market-themed Christmas wrapping paper to support local social enterprise start-up Nippa.

Nippa is fundraising to develop an app exclusively for parents to safely store precious photo and video memories of their little one with the friends and family who matter to you.

The platform will be parent and grandparent-friendly enabling you share updates to the people via mobile and web, whilst staying up to date on the adventures of the little ones that are important to you.

We want to make the world a smaller place and more interconnected for families so that no one misses out on those treasured moments of children growing up.

Please come down to the stall and show your support today.

For more gift wrap stall and general market information visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/ourmarkets.



Wrap up your Christmas at Portobello and Golborne Road Market

TAINA MATTHEW,
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Opening times

Thursday	22 December	Open until 7pm*
Saturday	24 December	Open until 7pm*
Monday	26 December	Closed
Tuesday	27 December	Closed
Saturday	31 December	Open until 7pm*
Monday	2 January 2017	Closed

*some stalls may close early

For details visit:
www.rbkc.gov.uk/ourmarkets
Twitter: Facebook: Instagram: @rbkmarkets #pogomkt



Challenging times on the horizon at Buckingham and Kensington

On the face of it, the Press offices at Buckingham and Kensington palaces face a bit of a challenging time next year, not from the usual tussle with the troublesome paparazzi but to keep the Royal Family in the headlines to the joyous level that they have recently become accustomed.

Like all institutions, the Royal Family are somewhat dependent upon publicity. As, like so many other pillars of the establishment, they are publicly funded, good PR helps maintain the feeling of their entitlement to the cash as very few mind financially supporting the royals when the bunting is flickering and the flags are flying along The Mall and around the city. But to set the flags a'flying, PRs need events to which to tag the celebrations.

In recent years the Royal Family has been fortunate in the number of milestones and occasions to which the flag-waving could be effortlessly pinned.

There's been the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the births of George and Charlotte, the Queen's diamond jubilee, Her Majesty's record-breaking longest reign, the poignancy of the 100th anniversary of the First World War, the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and, of course, this year all of the many events that went on around the Queen's 90th birthday.

The aggregate of all of this has been that whereas the Royal Family were once an institution like the Church, always there but not always essential to popular culture, now they have become showbiz, supported by such a surge of popularity that they are now the new pop stars, with every newspaper, magazine and news site wanting to tell an avid audience everything about them.

Much of this new demand for the royals is due to the high profile of William, Kate and Harry, who have propelled the institution almost to the level of The Beatles. They have become The Threeates and public demand for their every appearance and utterance at times approaches a mania.

But, to continue the analogy, at first glance 2017 looks set to be a non-album year, with fewer events and reasons to get the bunting out than we have seen in recent years.

The big royal celebratory event of the coming year will be the 70th wedding anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip.

Netflix's blockbuster series *The Crown* has already anticipated the vicarious interest in this, which is why the television company has spent £100 million on the saga. And many, many Press articles and television programmes will yet be created to join the celebration and commentary on a remarkable achievement.

But the wedding anniversary does not



Next year marks the 70th wedding anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh

year after year because, like it or not, the modern consumer of media nowadays expects the sensational to grab his attention.

Similarly, although Prince Harry's heartfelt campaign with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge for greater awareness and understanding of mental health is one that too is commendable, as with the threatened extinction of wild animals, if the same message – no matter how crucial and important it is – is just recited over and over, the old phrase "change the record" could soon come to some media minds.

However, a good opportunity for some Threeatelemania will present itself in April when the young royals' mental-health charity Heads Together is the official charity of the year at the Virgin Money London Marathon – although the potential media explosion that this good cause generates could be rather dependent upon either William, Harry or Catherine running in it.

But while the sight of the peerlessly glamorous Duchess of Cambridge in running shorts is a photograph that would wing itself around the world on to every website, television news bulletin and front page and would truly put the Heads Together message firmly in the mind of billions, such a PR stunt is fraught with potential dangers.

Aside from the obvious security concerns – which would be so massive that those charged with maintaining the safety of the royals would most likely veto the very suggestion – there is also the evident problem of maintaining the royal image: even if Harry or William or Kate was to train for the marathon, it's a long, hard run and would we really want to see red-faced and puffed-out pictures of any of our first family crossing the finish line on the point of collapse?

This is why not many top rock stars run the marathon – the risk is that the pictures are may not be pretty and, if you're a superstar, it's the look that matters; image is all – and at this level, wheezing for breath is not a great image.

And besides, dignity is another factor to be maintained when one is a royal. It is all very well if, as has been reported, Kensington Palace PRs favour heavily promoting their charges on social media in preference to traditional news media – but too much playing to trendiness can be fraught with slip-ups.

Twitter and Facebook have their importance but nobody wants to see Harry, William and Kate becoming the British equivalent of the Kardashians. We saw the like of that once before when some bright spark advised the then-young royals that it would be a fabulous idea, which it wasn't, for them to compete in *It's A Knockout*, the associated embarrassment of which would have set the monarchy back a thousand years had not Her Majesty's various jubilees occurred to resuscitate it.

But despite a lack of significant anniversaries, the royals will still feature in the news of 2017 as other events not of their stewardship involve them.

For instance, with the planet warming up

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The Queen's bespoke Christmas crackers – an apology

IN the Royal London section of last week's newspaper, we stated that Her Majesty's bespoke Christmas crackers are made by Celebration Crackers of Dorset.

We have been informed by Philippa Dutton, former assistant secretary of the Royal Warrant Holders Association, that this was in-

correct. She said: "Tom Smith Group are still the supplier of crackers to the Royal Family."

"They have been in existence since 1847 and they supply an annual personal service."

"They are part of the International Greetings company in Wales."

"The Queen opened their

new premises in Wales in 2014.

"Their first Royal Warrant was granted by the then-Prince of Wales in 1906 and they have held a Royal Warrant to the Queen since 1964 as suppliers of Christmas crackers and wrapping paper."

We apologise for the error.

for Press teams palaces

and running out like never before and with every month that passes being heralded as the hottest in history, the warnings of the Prince of Wales, ignored for so long, will now become part of the public focus.

Although Charles's own big year will be 2018, when he hits 70, next year could easily become the year when the world finally heeds his thoughts on sustainability and biodiversity.

And with the planet plunging hellbent into the abyss that he has repeatedly warned of, some believe that 2017 could even see the prince not just heeded but conscripted as an adviser to government policy on ecology. A royal advising the cabinet would doubtless prompt all manner of talk of constitutional crisis. But perhaps protocol may be set aside when the prince's penny drops and there is the realisation that no "crisis" is more critical than the future of the Earth.

Of course nothing gets the bunting out better nor stokes royal fervour more than a royal wedding. If the royals now be rock stars, what better event could be held to fan the fandom than a marriage with all of the pomp and pageantry of the way the royals do it? We wonder who may be in the frame for such a PR dream?

Two points on that. One, the world's most obvious candidate is not even engaged to Meghan Markle yet; give the poor chap a chance of at least some sort of a courtship before he is flung at the altar in order to satiate our hunger for a great big bash.

And two, it is unlikely that Prince Harry would choose 2017 to be the year in which he marries Ms Markle or anyone else because thoughts of another great royal will dominate next year and they will not be the happiest of ones.

For the biggest royal event of next year will be an anniversary that could understandably drive some of the Royal Family to retreat for a little while from spending so much time in the public eye, as it is the 20th anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

If anyone was single-handedly responsible for the new popularity of the Royal Family, if anyone put them on a par with The Beatles, it was Diana.

Indeed it was Diana who pioneered the image and the way of the New Monarchy; through her committed attention to her causes she reinvented and modernised the



2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales

institution, broadening its involvement and appeal by giving her time and, moreover, her care.

Looking back, it is quite staggering to realise the breadth of her involvement with so many of the disadvantaged and needy.

She changed the nation's attitude and awareness of HIV and AIDS, she campaigned for victims of leprosy, worked for animal protection and fought against the use of landmines. She was the patroness of charities and organisations working with the homeless, youth, drug addicts and the elderly. She was president of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, she was a patron of Headway, a brain-injury association, she was patron of Natural History Museum and president of Royal Academy of Music.

She was president of Barnardo's, patron of the British Red Cross and her other patronages included Help the Aged, the Trust for Sick Children in Wales, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, the British Lung Foundation, Eureka!, the National Children's Orchestra, Royal Brompton Hospital, British Red Cross Youth, Relate Marriage Counsellors, Guinness Trust, Meningitis Trust, Dove House, the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, the Royal School for the Blind, Welsh National Opera, the Pre-School Playgroups Association, the Variety Club of New Zealand, Birthright, the British Deaf Association, English National Ballet, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Royal Marsden Hospital. It is amazing what Diana did.

So perhaps it is more than convenient that 2017 will provide less royal pomp and occasion as, if it becomes Diana's year, it will provide the platform for what she may have wanted most – that her work would be carried on by her children.

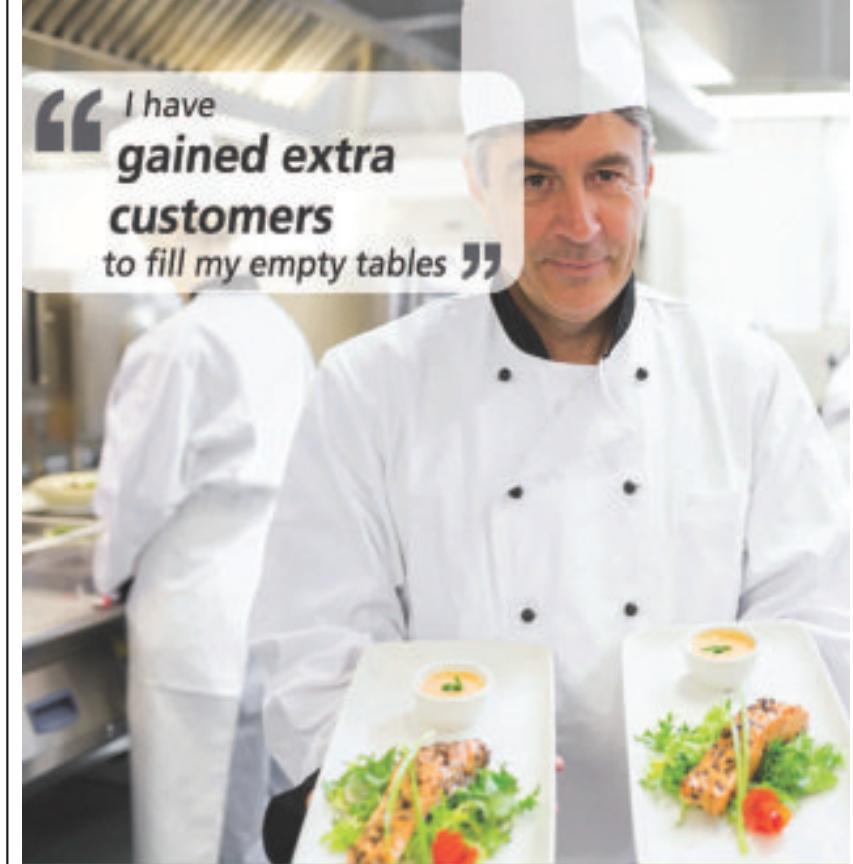
Much of that work is already being continued and promoted by Harry, William and Kate through their commitment to helping the cause of the homeless and those suffering from mental ill health.

With the memory of Diana and her commitment to those causes flagged up by the 20th anniversary of her death, 2017 could become a landmark royal year for that which is better than the bunting – doing good. And that needs no great PR effort at all.

Geoff Baker



The then-young royals competing in *It's A Knockout* wasn't as good an idea as was imagined



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Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



We Are Scientists

KOKO, Camden

Saturday December 17

Chirpy American duo who became pin-up boys for millennial teens 10 years ago before age finally caught up. Infectious guitar riffs and yelp-along lyrics combine to devastating effect on *The Great Escape* and *Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt*. Returned with album number six, *Helter Seltzer*, this year.



Cate Le Bon

Assembly Hall, Islington

Wednesday December 14

Welsh singer known for mixing her Gallic roots with contemporary indie rock sounds to create a winning combination. Has worked with the likes of Manic Street Preachers and Neon Neon during a colourful career to date. Now based in Los Angeles, she enjoyed critical acclaim for her latest album *Crab Day* upon its release in April.



Adam Ant

Roundhouse, Camden

Sunday December 18

Lord of the Ants, Adam is back on the road to tour his classic album *Kings Of The Wild Frontier*. Featuring the breakthrough single *Dog Eat Dog* and iconic hit *Antmusic*, the show is set to transport fans back in time to the Ants' early 1980s heyday. This show at the Roundhouse is an added extra to the sell-out tour which travelled round the UK this year.

WHEN you've been touted as your hometown heroes, played at some of the world's most iconic venues, toured with the era's biggest bands and enjoyed chart success with a string of hits to rival any of indie rock's top names, reinvention can be a hard trick to master.

Riding high on the appeal of their sunny singles *Pass It On*, *In The Morning* and *Dreaming Of You*, The Coral were among the most sought-after acts of the early 2000s guitar-group revival.

Alongside the likes of Franz Ferdinand, Arctic Monkeys and Bloc Party, the Merseyside troupe had the ear of a generation.

Fast forward 15 years and the musical landscape is entirely different. The old-fashioned six-string axe has been largely driven from the mainstream, replaced by clean and crisp electronic beats concocted in the modern-day musical production lab.

But factory-line fever never caught on with The Coral, and they slipped quietly off the radar before lead guitarist Bill Ryder-Jones walked away from the band in 2008.

It might have been the end of the road for other groups. But The Coral continued, breaking new ground and remodelling their sound.

Reinvention has come around slowly. But on their latest album, *Distance Inbetween*, it seems the band have finally found comfort in their new shoes.

Older, wiser and without the internal jostling for position that characterised their more turbulent early days, it has been a smoother process all round.

"It was kind of easier for this album," singer James Skelly explained in a recent interview with *M* magazine.

"There were no politics, no-one in the group having a bad one. In a way, it was the most functioning band since the first album.

"With all the others there was tur-



The Coral play at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire this week

moil – but in a way, you get some of your best music from that."

Some of their best, it undoubtedly was. The band's self-titled debut and its follow-up *Magic And Medicine* yielded a handful of their finest singles to date.

But in 2016 – the year of such seismic change around the world – The Coral are reborn.

Farewell the jingle-jangle sound of the early Noughties era, replaced by harsher, more driving rhythms influenced by the German Krautrock bands of the 1960s.

Peppered with hypnotic vocals, buzzsaw guitars and swirling synths, *Distance Inbetween* mines the darkest corners of psychedelia more in the mould of Aussie rockers Tame Impala than the sunshine pop of The Thrills.

"We wanted it to be more minimal and direct," says Skelly. "There

Previewing THE CORAL at O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire

musical heritage of the west, torn between Liverpool to the north and Wales to the south.

"We took from Shack, Echo And The Bunnymen and The La's, then the Super Furry Animals and Gorky's from the other side – we had the eccentricity of them all and put it in the pot," Skelly tells *M*.

"From The Beatles and Liverpool to the Welsh thing, they're all outsiders.

"We could see both places from where we lived and it was a real meshing together of those things as a band."

For diehard fans, change can be bittersweet. But like or loathe The Coral's new-found sound, they remain among the truest bands in town.

The Coral perform at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire on Friday December 16. The new album Distance Inbetween is out now.



evening's show at the Royal Festival Hall, which follows an emotional homecoming date at the Steel Hall in Sheffield.

"They're a group who have sold millions of records, inspired two generations of artists, written some of the all-time great classic pop songs, had number ones across Europe and the US and yet still remain fiercely independent," proclaims the band's official website.

The Human League may have been a band at home in the 1980s – but they are alive and kicking as strongly as ever today.

*The Human League will perform at the Royal Festival Hall tonight. The anthology collection, *A Very British Synthesizer Group*, is out now.*

80s TV classic returns

IT'S time to dig out your leg warmers and ra-ra skirts and grab your Walkmans as BBC Four revives the classic 1980s programme *Pop Quiz*.

Pop Quiz: The Comeback will comprise two specials celebrating 1980s pop music.

Hosted by the original presenter Mike Read, these two new programmes will pit two teams made up of legendary 1980s pop stars against each other in a retro treat.

The guests include Toyah Willcox, Nick Heyward (Haircut 100), Carol Decker (T'Pau), Tom Bailey (Thompson Twins), Andy McCluskey (OMD), Steve Norman (Spandau Ballet), David Grant (Linx), Cheryl Baker, Jay Aston (both Bucks Fizz), Ranking Roger

(The Beat), Mari Wilson and Lee John (Imagination).

Read says: "I'm delighted to be working with a great BBC team to bring back the classic television series *Pop Quiz*.

"Once again the brows of the famous will be furrowed, lips pursed and eyes narrowed as we test their music knowledge, watch some great classic footage and have some fun along the way."

The quiz originally broadcast from July 1981 to January 1984.

Cassian Harrison, channel editor, BBC Four, says: "BBC Four is the home of popular music on BBC television and it's fabulous to bring back one of our greatest and most popular music quiz shows for a very special Christmas treat."

Oakey, joined by Joanne Catherall and Susan Ann Sulley – the League are hitting the road once again.

Having influenced modern artists as varied as Moby, Hot Chip and Little Boots, the band's continued appeal proves that our appetite for infectious synth-pop has never gone away.

Fans can expect an airing of vintage hits *Love Action*, *Open Your Heart* and *Mirror Man* during this

Capital nights

GREAT bands can carve out a successful career without saying a single word. The posturing, the exhibitionism and the shock factor can sustain an artist's appeal for decades, if that's what it takes.

But for Bobby Gillespie, the iconic frontman of Scottish rockers Primal Scream, the musician's real craft is in the art of communication.

"Everything in society is now fractured and precarious," he told *NME* in a recent interview.

"Your job, my job, us as individuals. We're supposedly connected through the internet but we're not. We're more isolated than ever."

Too many singers over-complicate their art – says Gillespie – wrapping clever messages up inside lyrics in a bid to beguile their audience.

But the process only cloaks their communicative paralysis. The trick is to express a common sentiment in simple, relatable language.

Primal Scream, fortunately, have the knack.

Despite an ever-changing line-up and a recording career spanning close to 30 years – 2017 will mark three decades since their debut album *Sonic Flower Groove* – the band have always been able to cut through.

Their music is built from the ground up, for the lowest common denominator. Simply put, it's primal.

That's not to say the Glasgow group are stuck in stasis. On the contrary, they continue to surprise, experimenting with new styles and forming unexpected creative collaborations.

On their latest album, for instance, special guests Sky Ferreira, HAIM and Rachel Zefira populate tracks with an electro-pop edge.

For Gillespie, in the face of our broken world, music can still be an inspirational force.

"I still get so excited about music, super-

thrilled by hearing other artists who are doing good stuff," he told *Consequence Of Sound* recently.

"New stuff that's inventive and full of imagination and energy."

"When (guitarist) Andrew Innes and myself make some music that we both think is really good, it always surprises us. Not surprised but I'm happy that we're still pushing."

Gillespie is one of British rock's great innovators, looking at the medium through the eyes of an artist rather than a composer.

"I see music as art. When someone can express themselves really well – musically well – then I'm always very touched by that."

"I think it's an incredible thing to be able to express yourself that way."

Primal Scream are still best remembered as the acid house pioneers of the early 90s.

With their legendary album *Screamadelica*, they inadvertently soundtracked an entire era, combining pounding guitar rhythms with the roof-raising sounds of gospel.

Famous tracks like *Movin' On Up* put Gillespie's point into practice, with the effortlessly memorable lines: "I was blind, now I can see/You made a believer out of me."

A quarter of a century later and the band are still making a huge contribution to our musical landscape.

Gillespie says finally kicking his drug habit eight years ago has enabled him to widen his frame of reference, to read more and take care in his craft.

And *Chaosmosis*, the band's latest album, confronts the struggle for clarity and beauty in a world where the structures are constantly shifting.

Jack Dixon
previews
PRIMAL SCREAM
at Brixton



Primal Scream's Bobby Gillespie

"It seemed to me like the term was a very weird description of the creative process where you absorb everything if you're an artistic person," he explains.

"You absorb all the information, the data overload of the modern world and it's kind of hard to decode and decipher it."

"Instead of letting that stuff drag you

down and make you depressed, you can turn it into an artwork. You can take that negativity and turn it into something spiritual for other people to be inspired by it. Put some light back into a dark world."

*Primal Scream will perform at the O2 Academy in Brixton on Thursday. The new album *Chaosmosis* is out now.*

New plea for help in bid to make Tin Pan Alley film

CROWDFUNDING for the film of the history of Tin Pan Alley has now reached two-thirds of its target – but movie-makers have renewed their appeal as time is running out.

The team planning *Tin Pan Alley Tales*, the story of Denmark Street's legend as the music centre of London, have now raised £14,000 towards their £21,000 target.

But they have to reach the goal figure by December 21 or, under crowdfunding rules, all the pledges could be lost.

"The support to date has been wonderful and we're very grateful but we need a little more help from our friends," said the movie's producer-director Henry Scott-Irvine. "But I'm confident we'll reach our target by the deadline as more money is coming in all the time. We just need that last-minute extra push."



Tin Pan Alley during the 1960s

Funding for the planned documentary was boosted by another £900 last week through an eBay auction of rare records.

An acetate of *The Best Of Madness* sold for £665, £155 was paid for a white label of the Madness album *Mad Not Mad* and a collector paid £75 for a white label of the David Bowie hit *Absolute Beginners*. The records were donated by

Madness producer Clive Langer. Another "undisclosed but significant" donation to the film fund has been pledged by the Flat Iron steak house, which is on the site of the legendary music industry hang-out the Gioconda Cafe at 9 Denmark Street.

"In the early 1960s, Engelbert Humperdinck – then known as Jerry Dorsey – used to eat breakfast there in the hope that he could hire a pick-up band of jobbing musicians to hire for a UK tour," said Mr Scott-Irvine.

"By the mid 1960s Davie Jones, who was later to change his name to David Bowie, used to meet his Mod mate Marc Feld, later to become Marc Bolan, at the Gioconda to plan their dreams of fame and fortune."

"The Small Faces also signed to Andrew Loog Oldham's Immediate Records in the Gioconda and upstairs above the cafe was Central Sound Studios where the Bee Gees recorded their debut album. All of these stories will be in the film and we're grateful to Flat Iron for helping fund it."

Pledges for *Tin Pan Alley Tales* can be made on the crowdfunding site phundee.com.

ROBBIE Williams has won the crown that all rock stars wanted – he will star in the BBC's now-traditional New Year's Eve spectacular.

The end-of-the-year gig has become one of the most coveted in the rock calendar as previous broadcasts – Bryan Adams in 2015 and Queen and Adam Lambert in 2014 – have been the most-watched television music performances of the year, and therefore great for record sales.

Williams will be performing live at Central Hall Westminster, in *Robbie Rocks Big Ben Live on New Year's Eve*, in the build-up to the clock striking midnight to see in 2017 and continuing again after the fireworks, on BBC One. Tickets for the gig sold out in minutes.

"Robbie will delight fans with an exclusive show including tracks from his current album *The Heavy Entertainment Show* as well as some of his greatest hits," said a BBC spokesman.

Williams said: "I can't wait to party with London and the rest of the UK on New Year's Eve."

AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW
by Cllr Robert Atkinson, Labour Group leader, RBKC

WE are lucky to live at a time when not only is life expectancy continuing to increase in leaps and bounds but, contrary to rumour, most people now live longer in both good health and in growing prosperity.

Pensioners no longer constitute the most deprived section of the population. We should therefore give thanks for both antibiotics and for our beloved NHS – arguably the greatest boons of the 20th century.

As more and more of us live for 30-plus years after retirement it has become an increasingly urgent question as to how to pay for maintaining the retired in the security and comfort that most now take for granted.

There can be no argument in principle that people be asked to work longer before retirement – and as women still live longer than men there was no argument that the retirement age be equalised between the sexes. But there is great argument as to how equalisation of the state pension age has been achieved. And one section of society, women born in the mid 1950s, has every right to complain about being unfairly treated.

These women began their working life (the majority leaving school at 15) expecting that they would retire at 60. When it was then agreed that the retirement age be equalised, it was assumed that equalisation would be achieved by lowering the male age of retirement.

It came as something of a shock when retirement was equalised upwards to 65 for all. Women already in the workforce for decades were then promised a gradual scaling up of the retirement age over time but progressively and stealthily the timetable has been speeded up.

A woman born in 1955 has seen her projected state pension age increase from 60 to 65 and then 66. This has led to the formation of campaigning organisation WASPI – Women Against State Pension Inequalities – and battle rages. A petition calling for fair transitional arrangements for all women born on or after April 6 1951 attracted more than 193,000 signatures.

During the passage of the 2011 Pension Act, the opposition expressed concern that as a result of the coalition government's changes "500,000 women will have to wait more than a year to receive their state pension, and of those, 300,000 will have to wait 18 months or more. 33,000 women unlucky enough to have been born between March 6 1954 and April 5 1954 will have to wait exactly two years before they receive their state pension". In the closing stages of this Bill it was amended so that the SPA maximum increase would be capped at 18 months relative to the timetable on the 1995 Pensions Act.

In March, the Work and Pensions Select Committee published a report on the SPA, inviting the government to make up for its mishandled changes to the state pension age. There are a range of options ministers could be pursuing, including the option of early access to a lower state pension.

Despite earlier blandishments the current government has now refused further concessions to the now relatively small group of women left without a fair transition. This is not just a question of principle but many of this group are now experiencing hardship because their pension arrangements changed so rapidly that they have had no opportunity to change their savings arrangements nor to seek additional or better paying work to allow them to bridge the gap that has been created for them.

Our pensions system should ensure dignity in retirement, and properly reflect the contribution that older people have made, and continue to make, to our society. We have not heard the last of WASPI.



Girl shocks commuters by crossing Tube lines

LONDON Underground safety chiefs are to deliver a stern talking-to at the school of the child who shocked commuters at Latimer Road station as she dived with death by crossing the lines.

After talks with British Transport Police, Tube chiefs are to give the schoolgirl and fellow pupils a blunt explanation of the dangers of being fried by the 630-volt power lines or being hit by a train.

The incident, which was captured on his mobile by a passenger, horrified onlookers as the child obviously dashed between platforms at the North Kensington

station on Thursday. Mick Cash, leader of the RMT union which released the picture, said it illustrated the problems being caused by a shortage of staff.

He said: "This is exactly what happened at Latimer Road where took a passenger with a mobile phone to let London Underground know that a schoolchild has been wandering across electrified track while trains run."

Tube chiefs said they had immediately launched an investigation and quickly identified the girl's school. They have been in touch with the school to reveal the

girl's alarming behaviour. London Underground safety officers will now be visiting the school to advise pupils of the dangers of the railway and how to behave.

Tube bosses denied union claims that the station was unstaffed at the time but they confirmed there was no staff member on the platforms.

A spokesman said: "The station was not unstaffed. There was a member of staff on the platform. That is usual practice at Latimer Road which is a one-staff-member station and has been for some time."

£200m plan to make 100 Tube stations step-free

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON mayor Sadiq Khan is to spend £200 million to make travelling by Tube easier for the elderly, disabled and mums with baby buggies.

Mr Khan is planning a massive investment to provide step-free access in more than 100 stations on London Underground. He has announced that he will instigate the biggest boost to step-free access on the Underground in the network's 153-year history, by investing an additional £40 million a year over the next five years.

As part of its draft Business Plan, Transport for London has committed to making more than 30 additional Tube stations step-free by 2021-22.

"The move will bring the total number of stations with step-free access to all platforms to more than 100, representing more than 40 per cent of the Underground network and significantly increasing the proportion from the current level of 26 per cent," said the mayor's spokesman.

"It will substantially improve the accessibility of the Tube, making life easier for older and disabled people. It will also give a greater choice of travel options for everyone, and will directly benefit parents and carers with children and buggies."

Major stations including Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road and Victoria will become step-free next year. Work will also progress at vital interchanges at Bank and Elephant & Castle.

"The full opening of the Elizabeth Line in 2019 will also be a huge mo-

ment for the accessibility of London's transport network, with every station being step-free. The line will provide a key new east-west link across the capital, serving step-free stations at the heart of London, with all platforms and trains accessible step-free," said the spokesman.

Mr Khan said: "As part of making London's transport system one of the best in the world we must ensure it is accessible for all Londoners. It's not right that for people with disabilities, parents with young children and many older people, many of our stations are still very difficult to use.

"I promised in my manifesto that we needed to be more ambitious with our approach to step-free access, and now I'm confirming that £200 million will be invested on the Underground over the next five years.

"As part of building a modern and affordable transport system, I'm determined to make sure all Londoners can get around London safely and easily."

The plans have been widely welcomed by disability and mothers' groups.

Ruth Owen, chief executive of Whizz-Kidz, said: "Public transport is a lifeline for disabled people but we know that accessibility can be a major barrier for wheelchair users who, like anyone else, just want to get from A to B. We warmly welcome the mayor's plans to invest in making the Underground more accessible, and his clear commitment to making the city more inclusive for the many disabled people who live and work there."

Annie O'Leary, editor-in-chief at Netmums, said: "These plans are hugely welcome, and will make such

a difference to those who currently struggle to use the Tube. A more accessible network will benefit so many families and make life much easier for anyone travelling with a buggy."

Karen Lord, head of branch at John Lewis Oxford Street, said: "Improved station accessibility is key to our customers – whether that's mums with prams, disabled shoppers, the elderly, or simply those with heavy bags. We welcome the planned investment on this initiative in stations across London, complementing the upgrades at Bond Street and Tottenham Court Road, which will help transform the shopping experience for many on Oxford Street."

Janet Cooke, chief executive of London TravelWatch, said: "We are delighted to hear about these new developments – step-free access is good for everyone. We will continue to speak for all Londoners to progress the further steps needed to make the network fully accessible and work collaboratively with TfL to achieve this."

Mark Wild, London Underground's managing director, said: "Making the Underground more accessible for our customers is one of our top priorities. We should not only be aspiring to, but making a reality of, a transport network that can be used by everyone. We have made good progress but we're determined to do even more even quicker. We will invest more than ever before in improving step-free access to ensure we provide services that serve every Londoner."

TfL has the most accessible bus fleet in the world, with all 9,000 buses low-floor wheelchair accessible and fitted with ramps.

Arab women win praise from MP



VICTORIA Borwick, MP for Kensington, has hailed the positive contribution Arab women have played in today's society. The praise from Mrs Borwick came at the second annual Arab Women Awards.

The awards ceremony, held at the Jumeirah Carlton Tower Hotel, celebrated the tremendous achievements by Arab women from business, science, art, culture and education.

Mrs Borwick, who was presenting an award to HH Princess Amerah Al Taweel for social leadership, said in her speech: "London is the most culturally diverse and stimulating city on Earth.

"This city gives you access to many cultural experiences including Arabic events and festivals which showcase the diversity of London."

"The mayor of London's Eid festival is now internationally famous for promoting global artists and cultural activities from Qatar, Dubai, Morocco, Iran, Turkey and many more."

"Additionally, the Shubbak festival of contemporary Arab culture – which will be celebrating its seventh year – also promotes talent from female Arabic artists and designers."

"The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea delivers the Nour festival which is a celebration of the very best in contemporary Middle Eastern and North African arts and culture."

"These events not only celebrate the diversity of London but also reinforce a great cultural, economic and political understanding between London and the Arab world."

"The mayor of London launched his global London Is Open campaign to welcome and encourage visitors and investment to London. Whoever you are, and whatever your background, London is open to you."

"London is a second home to many and you will know that you will be made to feel welcome in a city that is safe and secure, as well as to enjoy what London has to offer."



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Wine&dine



The Slug and Lettuce on Hanover Street has undergone an extensive refurbishment

Fantastic fare on offer in luxurious surroundings

FOllowing an extensive refurbishment, the Slug and Lettuce on Hanover Street now boasts a plush and luxurious interior, which provides a warming and gracious atmosphere. With some excellent service, great food and all at a reasonable price, it's the perfect place to meet friends for a festive feast, writes Nicky Sweetland.

I popped in on a cold Tuesday night – and with the Christmas lights of Regent Street twinkling in the distance, I immediately noted a jovial ambiance and wonderfully Christmassy feel.

My companion and I started with a couple of cocktails – but with such an extensive range I didn't know which to try.

I went for Strawberry Daiquiri (Havana Club Three-year-old Rum, strawberry puree, fresh lime juice and sugar syrup, £9.20), while my friend sampled a pornstar martini (Absolut Vanilia vodka, Passoa liqueur, caramel syrup, sugar syrup, fresh lemon juice, pineapple juice and passion fruit, with a shot of Prosecco on the side, £10.20).

Both were light and fresh and acted as a perfect accompaniment to our starters, for me kimchi steam buns (soft oriental buns filled with Korean-style pickled vegetables, baby spinach and a spiced lemon dressing, £5.29). My buddy munched on crispy calamari.

The kimchi was hot and substantial, while



the calamari was crunchy and perfectly prepared.

Next I was treated to a grilled sea bass fillet served with a super food salad (£12.79), which was meaty and succulent.

My friend filled up on a deli beef burger (NYC-style classic, eight-hour slow-cooked cured British beef brisket, melting Cheddar cheese and French's classic mustard, topped with pickles and served with skinny fries,

£10.99), a hearty and fulsome winter warmer.

We also managed to squeeze in dessert. My friend had a real plate full, with a decadent display of mini delicacies, while I plumped for a classic rhubarb roulade, which was a tart and tantalising pleasure.

A thoroughly enjoyable dining experience – I would highly recommend the Slug and Lettuce on Hanover Street.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Roast goose with clementine and chestnut salad

Serves 6



GOOSE doesn't need to be fatty, and with careful preparation you can end up with a nice, meaty, lean and moist bird. You can reuse the cooking fat from the legs for delicious roast potatoes, and the rest of the carcass, once you've removed the breasts for this recipe, is great for gravy.

Offering a salad on Christmas Day lightens up the whole feast, which can be very welcome.

1 goose weighing 3-4kg, preferably with livers and gizzards

For the herb bag:

A 25cm square piece of muslin; string
A few sprigs of thyme
A small piece of cinnamon stick
6 juniper berries, chopped
1/2tbsp coriander seeds
1/2tbsp white peppercorns
4 cloves
1 bay leaf

6 cloves of garlic, roughly chopped
400g duck or goose fat
2tsp sea salt

For the salad:

A couple handfuls of small salad leaves
4 clementines or satsumas, segmented
Up to 4 chestnuts, fresh, frozen or vacuum packed, peeled and lightly toasted
2tbsp orange juice
1tbsp sherry vinegar
4tbsp walnut oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 160C/gas mark 3. First prepare your goose by removing the legs: loosen them by pulling away from the side as you cut the skin with a sharp knife, then pull them all the way out and cut through the joint. Cut the legs in half at the joint then in half again, and pack them snugly into an appropriate sized, oven-proof, thick-bottomed pan or casserole dish with a lid.

Put all the herbs and spices into the muslin and tie securely with the string, then put it in with the legs. Melt the fat and pour over to cover the legs. Add the salt then slowly bring the fat to a simmer, drop in the gizzards if you have them, then cover the pan and cook in the oven for 1.5-2 hours or until the meat is soft but not falling off the bone. If cooking in advance you can store the pieces of leg in the fat in the fridge once cool.

On the day, preheat the oven to 220C/gas mark 7. With the heel of a knife cut away the backbone so you are left with just the two breasts attached to the bones. Remove the legs from the fat and place in a roasting tray with a tablespoon or so of the fat, and cook in the oven for about 40-50 minutes, basting as they are cooking until they are crisp. Remove from the oven and keep warm but do not cover or they will go soggy.

Turn the oven down to 160C/gas mark 3. Season the breasts, heat a large frying pan and cook them on a medium heat for 4-5 minutes to render the excess fat and until they are golden brown. Transfer to a roasting tray and place in the oven for an hour, keeping them pink, then leave to rest.

Carefully remove the breasts from the goose with a sharp knife then cut them into 1/2cm slices on a slight angle, and arrange on a warmed serving platter with the legs. You can serve this, as I've done here, with your favourite gravy recipe in which, to cut through the goose's richness, you've simmered a handful of cranberries for a few minutes.

Toss all of the ingredients together for the salad, season to taste and arrange in a serving bowl or on the platter.



Talk of the town

KERRY Ellis will bring a bit of Christmas sparkle to the Hippodrome Casino next week with her award-winning solo show, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The acclaimed performer, who is known as the First Lady of the West End, will present a one-night-only intimate show at the Leicester Square venue on December 20 and has promised a fun evening of song and laughter with an added Christmas feel.

The singer played a sold-out run at the Pheasantry on the King's Road in Chelsea this year and won a West End Wilma Award in the Best Solo Performance category for her last engagement at the Hippodrome.

She said: "I'm super excited; I love doing the Hippodrome. The last time I was there was about nine months ago and I won a lovely award for it, which was great.

"I just thought it would be really nice to a one-off Christmas show. I'm going to do some of my stuff, do some Christmas songs and have a nice time."

Ellis has played some of the biggest roles in the West End and on Broad-

way including Elphaba in *Wicked*, Nancy in *Oliver* and Grizabella in *Cats*.

She has recently returned to the London stage with an all-star cast at the Arts Theatre in the rock opera *Murder Ballad*.

She's also a celebrated recording artist and has toured extensively with Queen guitarist Brian May, her friend and mentor, with whom she will release a new album in March.

The sought-after star has just begun a broadcasting career with the UK's first radio station dedicated to musical theatre – Encore Radio. She is hosting a show on Saturday afternoons and is relishing the new challenge.

Ellis said: "I've never done any presenting before. I've been interviewed on the radio hundreds of times and sung and I've always loved the intimacy of radio.

"It's really relaxed; there's no pressure and I like the quality of it. I've always had the dream of perhaps doing it one day.

"Encore Radio came to me with the idea of doing a musical programme on a Saturday afternoon.

"There are obviously other shows

out there, with things like Elaine Paige on Radio 2, but there's a real want for it and there just isn't enough of it."

The show airs from 1pm to 3pm on Saturdays and has proved immensely popular with fans of theatre.

Ellis said: "People seem to love it and it's so lovely for me to be able to talk about people I know and experiences I've had. It just feels like I'm having a chat with people on a Saturday afternoon."

She has a busy year planned for 2017.

And quite apart from doing promotion for her new album, she is also off on tour in a new musical called *Wonderland*, which will run at the New Wimbledon Theatre from May 2 to 6.

**First Lady of the West End
KERRY ELLIS
at Hippodrome Casino**



Kerry Ellis

then I think we'll probably do a big megamix of Christmas favourites for everyone to sing along with.

"I want everyone to feel a bit festive. Bring your sleigh bells and your Christmas outfits."

Kerry Ellis will be performing at the Hippodrome Casino on Tuesday December 20. There is a limited number of tickets still available. For more details, visit hippodromecasino.com/events/christmas-with-kerry-ellis.

Genre-defining show's new run

SOUTHWARK Playhouse will host the European Premiere of a musical by one of the most acclaimed theatrical composers in the world, when *Working* by Stephen Schwartz is staged next year.

Working is the genre-defining musical from Grammy and Academy Award winner Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Godspell*) based on Studs Terkel's best-selling book of interviews with the American workforce – *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day And How They Feel About What They Do*.

This highly original and universal portrait of the American workday is told from the perspective of those who the world so often overlooks – the schoolteacher, the housewife, the firefighter and the waitress among many – whose daily grind and aspirations reflect the truths of the people who make up a nation.

Working employs a range of musical styles and genres from contributing composers, including five-time Grammy winner James Taylor and Pulitzer Prize winner Lin Manuel Miranda (*Hamilton*, *In The Heights*).

Schwartz said of his new

that such a talented and distinguished theatre company will be presenting *Working* in London. I look forward to collaborating with them to ensure that the show is both entertaining and relevant to the contemporary British audience."

Schwartz is best known for writing and composing the Tony, Olivier and Grammy Award-winning musical *Wicked*. Other shows for which he wrote music and lyrics include *Pippin*, *The Baker's Wife* and *Children Of Eden*.

In film, he collaborated with Alan Menken on the songs for Disney's *Enchanted*, as well as the animated features *Pocahontas* and *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame*, and wrote the songs for the DreamWorks animated feature *The Prince Of Egypt*.

Schwartz has won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Lyrics, three Grammy Awards and three Academy Awards and has been nominated for six Tony Awards.

He received the 2015 Isabelle Stevenson Award, a special Tony Award, for his commitment to serving artists and fostering new talent.

Working director Luke Sheppard directed the Olivier Award-winning production of *In The Heights*.

(King's Cross Theatre and Southwark Playhouse), for which he was nominated for Best Director at the Whatsonstage Awards, *Night Must Fall* (UK tour), *Stig Of The Dump* (UK tour), *Casa Valentina* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole Aged 13 1/2* (Curve, Leicester) and the forthcoming Euro premiere of *Peter And The Starcatcher* (Royal & Derngate, Northampton). He is the associate director of *Matilda* (Stratford-Upon-Avon, West End, Broadway).

Working first opened on Broadway in 1978, under the direction of Schwartz, with a cast including Patti LuPone, Bob Gunton, Joe Mantegna, David Patrick Kelly and Rex Everhart.

The show has since undergone several revisions, with additional songs by Miranda being introduced in 2009.

Working was last performed off-Broadway in December 2012, under the direction of Gordon Greenberg (*Holiday Inn*, *Guys And Dolls*, *Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well And Living In Paris*).

Working will run at Southwark Playhouse from June 2 until July 8. For more details, see southwarkplayhouse.co.uk and work-

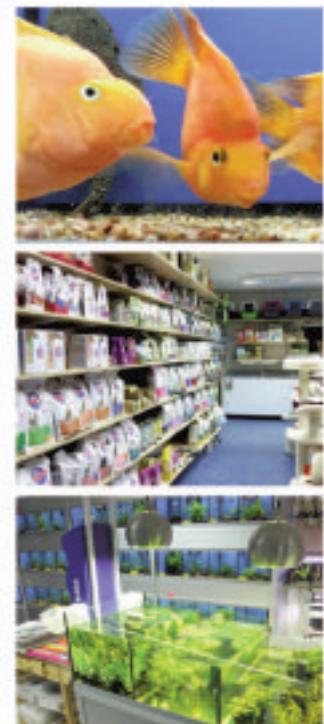
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Saturday:	10:00am - 6:00pm



020 7385 6005

Talk of the town

Play aims to restore reputation of first celebrity Brummell

EMMY Award winner Ron Hutchinson (*Rat In The Skull, Moonlight And Magnolias*) has reinvigorated his acclaimed black comedy *Beau Brummell – An Elegant Madness*.

And the play, which casts light on the patron saint of dandies Beau Brummell (1778-1840) will be revived at the Jermyn Street Theatre 15 years after it was last performed in London.

Sean Brosnan (*Doctor Who, The Forsyte Saga*) and Richard Latham (*Casualty, Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*) will bring the refreshed script to life – a text which resonates even more in today's celebrity-obsessed world.

Brummell was the original celebrity but is largely forgotten now.

He revolutionised fashion, style and attitude in the early 19th century – and Jermyn Street, Bond Street and Savile Row exist largely because of his patronage of London's tailors.

His legacy is celebrated in his statue on Jermyn Street.

It is the winter of 1819. The most stylish man of his day lives in exile in a madhouse in Calais.

The mind of George Bryan Brummell, known as The Beau, revels in past glories when he dominated the worlds of fashion, wit and dress.

He is convinced that his old friend and patron the Prince of Wales – now King George IV – will visit him and restore his position in society.



Today, the King is coming to Calais.

Brummell's valet, however, fired by revolutionary zeal, has other plans for the British monarch.

Director Peter Craze (*Doctor Who, EastEnders, Blake's 7*) said: "We are delighted to be bringing Ron Hutchinson's superb play back to Beau Brummell's spiritual home of Jermyn Street.

"Two years ago we dealt with the fall of another dandy in *The Trials Of Oscar Wilde*. Now we are telling the story of the original wit and man of fashion.

"Brummell once said that to be truly elegant, one should not be noticed. And now he is largely forgotten. We hope this production will go some way to restoring his reputation."

Brummell was the first man to be famous just for being famous but, like Oscar Wilde 70 years later, he had a tragic fall from grace.

Combining the grandeur of *King Lear* with the regency farce of *Blackadder III*, the play examines questions of class, style, romanticism, revolution, dementia and decay.

Beau Brummell – An Elegant Madness will run at the Jermyn Street Theatre from February 13 to March 11. For more details, visit jermynstreettheatre.co.uk.

AGALAXY of stars attended a ceremony at London's Cafe de Paris, where host Steve Furst announced the nominees for the 17th Annual WhatsOnStage Awards, the only major theatre prize-giving decided entirely by the theatregoers themselves, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The announcement of the nominations marked the opening of the final voting stage (closes January 31), with winners announced at the annual awards concert held on February 19 at The Prince of Wales Theatre.

WhatsOnStage's chief operating officer Sita McIntosh said: "It's fantastic to once again see the breadth and range of productions up and down the country acknowledged in this year's nominations.

"I think it's amazing that for the first time a play leads with 11 nominations; that's unheard of and reflective of the impact *Harry Potter And The Cursed Child* has had on the West End.

"An off-West End Production – *The Boys In The Band*, playing in a 200-seat venue – has secured four nominations including one for Ian Hallard as Best Actor in a Play up against the likes of Ian McKellen, Ralph Fiennes and Kenneth Branagh.

"And *Ragtime*, playing in the 265-seat Charing Cross Theatre, is nominated for Best Musical Revival alongside *Sunset Boulevard*, a show that played in a venue almost 10 times that size.

"In total, 48 productions have been nominated and it's heartening to have so many shows and so much talent recognised by the ticket-buying public. The WhatsOnStage Awards are a true indication of what the public enjoy at the theatre."

Harry Potter And The Cursed Child leads the field with 11 nominations – the first time a play has dominated the nominations. It is in the running for Best Actor in a Play for Jamie Parker, Best Supporting Actress in a Play nominations for both Noma Dumezweni and Poppy Miller and Best Supporting Actor in a Play nominations for Anthony Boyle and Paul Thornley, Best New Play, Best Direction nod for John Tiffany, Best Set Design for Christine Jones, Best Costume Design for Katrina Lindsay, Best Video Design for Finn Ross and Ash Woodward, and Lighting Design for Neil Austin.

Parker faces major competition for Best Actor in a Play from Branagh for *The Entertainer*, Ian Hallard for *The Boys In The Band*, Fiennes for *Richard III* and McKellen for *No Man's Land*.

Branagh's season receives four acting nominations. As well as for Branagh, Lily James is nominated for Best Actress in a Play for *Romeo And Juliet*, alongside Billie Piper for *Yerma*, Pixie Lott for *Breakfast At Tiffany's* and Michelle Terry for *Henry V*. And Derek Jacobi

Galaxy of stars in attendance as nominees revealed in WhatsOnStageAwards at London's Cafe de Paris

and Meera Syal also receive nods for Best Supporting Actor and Actress in a Play for the same production.

Leading the musicals' charge are Tim Minchin's *Groundhog Day* and *Half A Sixpence* – both with seven nominations apiece – closely followed by *Funny Girl* and *Aladdin* with five nominations each, and *Dreamgirls*, which is currently in previews, with four.

It's been another strong year for producer Sonia Friedman whose productions total 20 nominations across three productions,

Harry Potter And The Cursed Child, *Dreamgirls* and *Funny Girl* – the latter a co-production with the Menier Chocolate Factory who also received two nominations for *Travesties* (for Best Revival and Best Supporting Actor in a Play for Freddie Fox) which transfers to the West End next year.

Rising star Charlie Stemp receives his first WhatsOnStage nomination for Best Actor in a Musical for *Half A Sixpence*, with Andy Karl (*Groundhog Day*), Michael Xavier (*Sunset Boulevard*), Michael C Hall (*Lazarus*) and Ramin Karimloo (*Murder Ballad*). And in the Best Actress in a Musical category there looks to be a close run for the award between multi-WhatsOnStage Award-winning Sheridan Smith (*Funny Girl*), Amber Riley (*Dreamgirls*), Carrie Hope Fletcher (*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*), Glenn Close (*Sunset Boulevard*) and Devon-Elise Johnson (*Half A Sixpence*).

For Best New Play, Jack Thorne's *Harry Potter And The Cursed Child* will fight off competition from the latest hit show from Mischief Theatre – *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery*, Annie Baker's *The Flick*, Florian Zeller's *The Mother* and Tony Kushner's *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide*.

And Best New Musical this year sees *Groundhog Day*, *Aladdin*, *Half A Sixpence*, *Dreamgirls* and *School Of Rock* compete for top honours.

The Best Musical Revival category looks to be a tough race between *Funny Girl*, *Show Boat*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Ragtime*.

Best Play Revival sees *The Boys In The Band*, *No Man's Land*, *The Deep Blue Sea*, *The Dresser* and *Travesties* all nominated.

The Boys In The Band also makes the short-list for Best Off-West End Production, up against *The Last Five Years*, *Side Show*, *Ragtime* and *Grey Gardens*.

Best West End Show sees a fight between the long-running favourites *Les Misérables*, *Wicked*, *Phantom Of The Opera*, *Kinky Boots* and *Matilda*.

Performances at the ceremony included the 16-strong cast of *Rent* performing *Seasons Of Love* to close the proceedings.

The 17th Annual WhatsOnStage Awards will be held in aid of adopted charity The Kevin Spacey Foundation – kevinspaceyfoundation.org.

An achingly funny catastrophe of good intentions

AFTER a highly acclaimed UK tour and New York run, Fringe First Award-winning *Dirty Great Love Story* makes its anticipated West End debut in a new production, at the Arts Theatre, in 2017.

Two hopeful, hapless romantics get drunk, get it on and then get the hell away from each other.

In her eyes, he's a mistake – a mistake who keeps turning up at parties. In his eyes, she's perfect. He's short-sighted.

It is an achingly funny romantic catastrophe of good intentions and bad timing that asks whether a one-night stand can last a lifetime.

Dirty Great Love Story combines



drama and poetry in this laugh-a-minute exploration of modern romance.

Writers Richard Marsh and Katie Bonna said: "We're overjoyed that *Dirty Great Love Story* will be

swaggering and spewing, loving and losing its way back to the stage.

"It's going to be a huge treat to see two other actors playing out our excruciating embarrassments, boozy triumphs and awkward romantic disasters.

"And perhaps the world could do with some love and laughter right now."

Marsh and Bonna write and perform together and separately, like Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. They began writing together due to both living in Tooting and sharing a love of love stories. *Dirty Great Love Story* was awarded a Scots-

man Fringe First Award for outstanding new writing in 2012 and was shortlisted for both the Holden Street Theatre Award and the Brighton Fringe Award.

Bonna also received a nomination for the prestigious Stage Award for Best Actress at the Edinburgh Fringe 2012.

Marsh has since been selected as one of *Time Out*'s most influential people in the arts and was crowned London's Poetry Slam Champion in 2012.

Dirty Great Love Story will run at the Arts Theatre from January 18 to March 18. For more details, visit dirtygreatlovestory.co.uk.

Talk of the town

MORE than 20 years since the world was first introduced to the late Jonathan Larson's groundbreaking theatrical work, his cult musical *Rent* has returned to the London stage, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

The musical, first performed in New York in 1993 and is based on Puccini's *La bohème*, possibly holds even more relevance amidst our current political climate, with the issues of social inclusion, acceptance and tolerance right at the centre of the heartwarming story.

The new production, which is directed by Bruce Guthrie, has enjoyed a six-week UK tour prior to its opening at the St James Theatre next week and stars former *X Factor* finalist Lucie Jones in the pivotal role of Maureen, a political activist.

I caught up with Jones in her dressing room in Malvern before one of last week's shows and she told me: 'Rent is about a group of struggling artists in New York City. They cover every sexual orientation, race and gender. It's full of characters and every song is a different genre of music. It's fun, it's enigmatic and it's a brilliant story about friendship, love and humanity. I love it.'

Although Larson used Puccini's masterpiece as inspiration, the musical is also semi-autobiographical, as the composer lived in virtual poverty in the Big Apple and it includes many of his own experiences within the plot. The character of Maureen is also based on one of Larson's former girlfriends and she is known for her feisty and flirtatious attitude, something that Jones is rejoicing in getting to grips with.

Jones said: 'It's exhausting but it's brilliant fun because she's a brilliant character. I do something different with her every day, which is so nice to be able to do; in theatre you quite often can't do that. She's so off the wall and, well, she's crazy, and I'm having a great time

playing her every night.'

Disney *Frozen* star Idina Menzel originated the role both in the original Broadway production and in the 2005 film version. Menzel's version of the duet *Take Me Or Leave Me* has become a standard within musical-theatre circles. However, Jones said that her take on Maureen is very different from Menzel's portrayal.

Jones said: 'She was the original Maureen but the director gave me the job because he said I didn't do it anything like her when I went in for my audition.'

The story is set within 1980s New York, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The group's dreams, losses and love stories weave through the musical's narration to paint a stunningly raw and emotional portrait of the gritty bohemian world.

Jones said: 'It's so relevant to what's going on in the world now, particularly for my character because she's an activist and she's fighting for the greater good. She isn't specifically talking about the things we are struggling with now but it is almost directly related to them.'

Jones has noted how much audiences have drawn parallels between the show and our present-day social struggles, with many theatregoers experiencing the now-classic musical for the first time and realising its important message.

'It's been amazing that this has all been happening while we've been on tour and the conversations we've had with audience members about its relevance have been amazing,' she said. 'It really is as relevant now as the day it was written.'

Rent began previews at the St James Theatre on December 8 and runs until January 28. For more details, visit rentonstage.co.uk.

Beautifully performed but bewildering

Buried Child
Trafalgar Studios

WITH a catalogue of sordid family secrets at its centre, *Buried Child* by Sam Shepard is an uncomfortable and yet compelling drama, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Hollywood legend Ed Harris stars as Dodge, a decaying former farmer, who is choking with his resentment towards life.

While he surreptitiously sips on a concealed bottle of liquor he has almost become another item of living-room furniture.

His sharp-tongued spouse Halie (Harris' real wife Amy Madigan) noisily mourns the passing of their son Ansel, while their surviving offspring – aggressive amputee Bradley (Gary Shaford) and tormented Tilden (Barnaby Kay) – devastatingly display the manifestations of earlier traumas.

The portrayal of an all-American dysfunctional fam-



Ed Harris in Buried Child,
Trafalgar Studios

Picture: Johan Persson

ily feels, at first, perfectly acceptable – that is until they are paid a visit by Dodge's grandson Vince (Jeremy Irvine) and his girlfriend Shelley (Charlotte Hope), who, after a harrowing introduction, ensures the true horrors of the past become apparent.

When I say they become apparent, that is not entirely true.

Although beautifully performed, some of Shepard's plot twists are just a bit too cryptic

and I was, at times, bewildered.

Harris gives a monumental performance as the fading patriarch, while Hope is equally impressive as the sweet and feisty Shelley.

There is a haunting hunger to Madigan's grieving Halie and both Shaford and Kay provide formidable portrayals, which leave a feeling of disquiet in the auditorium. Irvine's demise into anarchy, facilitated by Derek McLane's clever set design, is painfully potent and the depth of the three-act play is revealed within the final moments.

Baffling at times and yet thoroughly captivating, *Buried Child* is a powerful piece of theatre but should come with a debrief so audiences can further understand the implications of the story they have witnessed.

Buried Child continues at Trafalgar Studios until February 18. For more details, visit buriedchildplay.co.uk/?gclid=CJiJ2_vm1dACFYdAGwodPYEDPwg

Interview
with
RENT
star
Lucie Jones



Lucie Jones in *Rent*



FOUNDATION

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CHELSEA FC FOUNDATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING TO RECRUIT PLAYERS TO START SEPTEMBER 2017.

Players will train 4 days a week as well as compete in the English Football League Trust National Futsal League alongside completion of the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport (Performance & Excellence).

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JAMES.PHILLIPS@CHELSEAFC.COM

PUBLIC NOTICE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR ADDITIONAL LICENSING OF HOUSES IN
MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 59 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 56 of the Housing Act 2004 ("the Act") has designated for additional licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation ("HMOs") the area described in paragraph 4.

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 60 of the Act.

AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation shall apply to the whole area of the district of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies all HMOs as defined by section 254 of the Housing Act 2004 that are occupied by 3 or more persons comprising 2 or more households, within the area described in paragraph 4 unless -
 - a) the HMO is not of a description specified in Annex A (Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act- other than Part 1);
 - b) the HMO is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
 - c) the HMO is subject to a temporary exemption under section 62 of the Act; or
 - d) the HMO is required to be licensed under section 55 (2) (a) of the Act (mandatory licensing).

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (d) above, every HMO of the description specified in that paragraph in the area specified in paragraph 4 shall be required to be licensed under section 61 of the Act.

The designation was given general approval by the Executive Member for Housing under a delegated authority from the Executive of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Council. The designation falls within a description of designations in relation to which the Secretary of State has given a general approval under section 58 of the Housing Act 2004, namely The Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2015 which came into force on the 1st April 2015.

A person having control of or managing a prescribed HMO must apply to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for a licence.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. Any landlord, managing agent or other person managing a HMO or any tenant within the Borough may inspect the designation, apply for a licence or seek further information or advice as to whether their property is affected by the designation from:

Private Housing, Environmental Health, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street Hammersmith, London W6 9JU
Email: phs@lbhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221

ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on **5 June 2017** any person who fails to apply for a licence in the designated area shall be guilty of an offence under Section 72(1) of the Act, and shall be liable to prosecution and liable to an unlimited fine. In addition, they may be required to repay up to 12 months' rent if the tenant or the Council, in the case of housing benefit payments, apply to the Residential Property Tribunal under the provisions of section 73 and section 74 of the Housing Act 2004 for a rent repayment order.

Annex A: Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act- other than Part 1

Buildings controlled or managed by public sector bodies etc 5

1. A building where the person managing or having control of it is 6
 - a local housing authority
 - aa) a non-profit registered provider of social housing
 - b) a police and crime commissioner under section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 or the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime under section 3 of the same Act
 - c) a fire and rescue authority under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
 - d) a health service body within the meaning of section 9 of the National Health Service Act 2006
 - e) a body which is registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996
 - f) a profit-making registered provider of social housing where it is social housing within the meaning of Part 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008

Buildings controlled or managed by a co-operative society 8

2. A building where -
 - the person managing or having control of it is a co-operative society whose rules are such as to secure that each of the conditions set out below is met, and
 - no person who occupies premises in the building does so by virtue of an assured tenancy, a secure tenancy or a protected tenancy

The conditions are:

- that membership of the society is restricted to persons who are occupiers or prospective occupiers of buildings managed or controlled by the society;
- 4 Schedule 14 of the Act and SI 2006/373
- 5 Paragraph 2 of schedule 14
- 6 For the definition of "person managing" and "person having control" see section 263 of the Act
- 7 Paragraph 2A of Schedule 14
- 8 Paragraph 2B of Schedule 14
- 9 "assured tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Housing Act 1988; "protected tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987; "secure tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Housing Act 1985;
- 10 that all management decisions of the society are made by the members (or a specified quorum of members) at a general meeting which all members are entitled to, and invited to, attend;
- 11 that each member has equal voting rights at such a meeting; and
- 12 that, if a person occupies premises in the building and is not a member, that person is an occupier of the premises only as a result of sharing occupation of them with a member at the member's invitation.

For these purposes "co-operative society" means a body that-

- is registered as a co-operative society under the 2014 Act or is a pre-commencement society (within the meaning of that Act) that meets the condition in section 2(2)(a)(i) of that Act, and is neither-
- aa) a non-profit registered provider of social housing, nor
- bb) registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.

Buildings regulated by other enactments 11

3. A tenancy, licence or occupation of a house which is regulated under the following enactments:
 - sections 87 to 87D of the Childrens Act 1989
 - section 43 (4) of the Prison Act 1952
 - section 34 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
 - The Secure Training Centre Rules 1998/12
 - The Prison Rules 1999/13
 - The Young Offender Institute Rules 2000/14
 - The Detention Centre Rules 2001/15
 - The Criminal Justice and Court Service Act 2000 (Approved Premises) Regulations 2001/16

10 the 2014 Act* means the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014

11 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 14

12 SI/1998/472 as amended by 2003/3005

13 SI/1999/728 as amended by SI 2000/1794, SI 2000/2641, SI 2001/1149, SI 2002/2116, SI 2002/3135, SI 2003/3301 and 2005/869

14 SI/2000/3371 as amended by SI 2002/2117, SI 2002/3135 and 2005/897

15 SI 2001/238 NB Section 66(4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provides that the reference to a detention centre is to be construed as a reference to a removal centre as defined in Part VII of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

16 The Care Homes Regulations 2001/17

17 The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015/18

18 The Residential Family Centres Regulations 2002/19

Certain student lettings etc 20

4. A building -
 - which is managed or controlled by a specified educational establishment or is of a specified description of such establishments and
 - the occupiers of the house or dwelling are undertaking a full time course of further or higher education at the specified establishment 21 and
 - the house or dwelling is being managed in conformity with an Approved Code of Practice for the management of excepted accommodation under section 233 of the Act. 22

Religious communities 23

5. A building which is occupied principally for the purpose of a religious community whose principal occupation is prayer, contemplation, education or the relief of suffering except if the building is a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies.

Buildings occupied by owners 24

6. A building which is only occupied by -
 - one or more persons who hold the freehold or a leasehold interest granted for a term of more than 21 years of the whole, or any part, of the building
 - and/or any member of the household 25 of that person or persons but this exemption does not apply to a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies, except for ascertaining the status of any flat within the block.

16 SI/2001/850

17 2001/3965 as amended by SI 2002/665, SI 2003/534, SI 2003/1590, SI 2003/1703, SI 2003/1845, s2004/664, SI 2004/696, 2004/1770, 2004/2071 and 2004/3168

18 SI 2001/541

19 SI 2002/3213 as amended by SI 2004/664, 2004/865 and 2004/3168

20 Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14

21 Houses in Multiple Occupation (Specified Educational Establishments) (England) Regulations 2013/1601

22 Housing (Codes of Management Practice) (Student Accommodation) (England) Order 2010/2615

23 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 14

24 Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14

25 For the definition of "household" see section 258 (2) and paragraphs 3 and 4 of SI 373/2006/Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14

Buildings occupied by resident landlord etc 26

7. A building which is occupied by a person or persons to whom paragraph 6 applies (subject to the proviso therein) and no more than two other persons, not forming part of the owner's household.

Buildings occupied by two persons 28

8. Any building which is only occupied by two persons (forming two households)

Meaning of "building" 29

9. In this annex a "building" includes a part of the building 29

26 Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14 and SI 2006/373

27 Paragraph 6(2) of SI 2006/373

28 Paragraph 7 of Schedule 14

29 Paragraph 1 of Schedule 14

PUBLIC NOTICE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR SELECTIVE LICENSING 2016
Section 80, Housing Act 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 83 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004 has designated the area described in paragraph 4 for selective licensing.

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Selective Licensing 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 84 of the Act.

AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation applies to the following streets as listed at Annex A.

APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to any house which is let or occupied under a tenancy or licence within the area described in paragraph 4 unless -
 - the house is a house in multiple occupation and is required to be licensed under Part 2 of the Act;
 - the tenancy or licence of the house has been granted by a registered social landlord;
 - the house is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
 - the house is subject to a temporary exemption under section 86 of the Act; or
 - the house is occupied under a tenancy or licence which is exempt under the Act or the occupation is of a building or part of a building so exempt as defined in The Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (England) Order 2006 SI 370/2006

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (e) every house in the area specified in paragraph 4 that is occupied under a tenancy or licence shall be required to be licensed under section 85 of the Act.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. If you are a landlord, managing agent, or a tenant, and wish to inspect this designation, apply for a licence or require further information, this is available from:

Private Housing, Environmental Health, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JU

Email: phs@lbhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221

The designation does not require confirmation by the Secretary of State and falls within a general approval issued by the Secretary of State under Section 82 of the Act, namely The Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2010.

Any private landlord, property manager or tenant owning, managing or occupying a property within this area is advised to seek advice from the Council's Housing Standards Team by telephone on 020 8753 1221 by email to phs@lbhf.gov.uk or in writing to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JU to determine whether their property is affected by the designation. Private landlords who own property in the area or any person that controls or manages property in the area will be required from **5 June 2017** to apply for a licence.

ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on 5 June 2017 any person who operates a licensable property without a licence shall be guilty of an offence under Section 95(1) of the Act. A person who breaches a condition of a licence is liable to prosecution and upon summary conviction liable to an unlimited fine.

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Executive approval 12 December 2016

Annex A: Streets in Hammersmith & Fulham were Selective Licensing applies

Adie Road	Harwood Terrace	St John's Close
Aldensley Road	Hawksmoor Street	Stanwick Road
Armadale Road	Hazlitt Mews	Station Approach
Askew Crescent	Hilary Close	Sterne Street
Askew Road	Holford Road	Studland Street
Aspenea Road	Hopgood Street	Silvan Road
Astrop Mews	Imperial Road	Talgarth Road
Astrop Terrace	Jordan Place	Tamarisk Square
Augustine Road	Kenmont Gardens	Telephone Place
Barb Mews	Kilmash Road	Terrick Street
Basuto Road	King Street	Trevianion Road
Batoum Gardens	King's Road	Tyrawley Road
Batson Street	Lalor Street	Upper Mall
Beaconsfield Terrace Road	Lamington Street	Uxbridge Road
Beaver Lane	Lanfrey Place	Dalling Road
Bentworth Road	Langford Road	Dawes Road
Beryl Road	Larnach Road	Devonport Road
Bishop's Avenue	Leamore Street	Down Place
Bloemfontein Road	Lettice Street	Dunraven Road
Bloemfontein Way	Leysfield Road	Eddiscombe Road
Bothwell Street	Lilac Street	Effie Place
Bramble Gardens	Lime Grove	Effie Road
Britannia Road	Loris Road	Elymus Place
Broomhouse Lane	Lower Mall	Epirus Mews
Bryony Road	Luxemburg Gardens	Ercomvald Street
Bulwer Street	Macbeth Street	Fane Street
Byam Street	Macfarlane Road	Farm Lane
Cactus Walk	Mandela Close	Felden Street
Cambria Street	Palliser Road	Fielding Road
Cambridge Grove	Parsons Green	Filmer Road
Cassidy Road	Parsons Green Lane	Firth Gardens
Cathnor Road	Peterborough Mews	Maurice Street
Caverswall Street	Poplar Mews	Meldon Close
Caxton Road	Porten Road	Melina Road
Chancellors Road	Primal Street	Melrose Terrace
Charlow Close	Purcell Crescent	Micklethwaite Road
Clancarty Road	Ravenscourt Avenue	Milson Road
Colehill Lane	Ravenscourt Park	Molesford Road
Commonwealth Avenue	Ravenscourt Place	Moore Park Road
Coningen Mews	Raynham Road	New King's Road
Coulter Road	Redmore Road	Norbroke Street
Crabtree Lane	Reporton Road	Normand Road
Daffodil Street	Rickett Street	North End Crescent
Foxglove Street	Rigault Road	North End Road
Frithville Gardens	Rockley Road	Old Oak Road
Fulham Broadway	Rosebury Road	Olgar Close
Fulham High Street	Ryecroft Street	Ormiston Grove
Fulham Park Road	Scrubs Lane	Overstone Road
Fulham Road	Shepherd's Bush Place	Vereker Road
Galloway Road	Shepherd's Bush Road	Wallflower Street
Glenroy Street	Sherbrooke Road	Waterford Road
Glenthorne Road	Shortlands	Watermeadow Lane
Goldhawk Mews	Snowbury Road	Wells Road
Goldhawk Road	South Black Lion Lane	Wood Lane
Goodwin Road	Southcombe Street	Woodlawn Road
Gorleston Street	Southerton Road	Woodstock Grove
Grimston Road	Spring Vale Terrace	Yew Tree Road
Gwyn Close		

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

79 Moore Park Road London SW6 2HH

2016/05155/FUL

Change of use of the basement and ground floor from retail (Class A1) into a two bedroom self-contained maisonette (Class C3); excavation and enlargement of the existing basement including the formation of new lightwells to the front and rear; erection of a new external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the front and rear of the property; partial demolition of the single storey back addition; and alterations to the external fenestration.

47 Turneville Road London W14 9PS

2016/05205/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of rear extensions at basement, ground and first floor levels; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope; conversion of the existing dwellinghouse into 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

Rear Of 41 Ellerby Street London SW6 6EU

2016/05011/FUL
Demolition of existing single storey studio/workshop unit and erection of a part one plus-basement building in connection with its use as a live work unit (Class Sui Generis).

26 Napier Court Ranelagh Gardens London SW6 3UT

2016/05180/TPO

Fell to ground level of a Holly tree (T11) in the rear garden, subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO/314/1/04.

Holly on lower lawn - Fell to ground level and poison stump as tree becoming too large and causing damage to grass and patio; client to replace tree with a Tulip tree

75 Langthorne Street London SW6 6JU

2016/05167/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; relocation of the French doors and Juliet balcony in the rear roofslope; installation of an air conditioning unit over the main flat roof at roof level; installation of a rooflight over the main flat roof at roof level.

156 Bishop's Road London SW6 7JG

2016/05176/FUL

Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

3 Beaumont Crescent London W14 9LX

2016/05182/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of rear extensions at lower

ground and upper ground floor level; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level; conversion of the dwellinghouse into 4 x one bedroom and 4 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

The William Morris 2 - 4 King Street London W6 0QA

2016/05177/FUL

Change of use of second floor from Class B1 office/Class D1 educational use to Class C3 residential use comprising units made up of 2 x one bedroom flats, 2 x two bedroom flats and 1 x three bedroom flat; Retain the first floor of 2-4 King Street as Class B1 office/Class D1 educational use to provide 166m² of space; erection of two additional storeys to No.4 King Street following removal of the existing roof and partial demolition at first and second floor levels; erection of three storey rear extensions to No.2 King Street fronting Beadon Road following partial demolition of existing back addition; formation of roof terraces at first, second and third floor levels; cladding of the upper floors of the King Street frontage to No. 4 King Street with glazed tiles; alterations to the ground floor elevation of the Beadon Road front elevation; replacement of existing windows with new windows to external fenestration of the building; Additional plant, access roof hatch and external perforated metal screening at roof level; and insertion of two rooflights on existing pitched roof.

Archel Studio Archel Road London W14 9QH

2016/05190/FUL

Replacement of existing doors and windows with new double glazed doors and windows at lower ground floor level, and replacement of existing windows with new double glazed windows at upper ground floor level; erection of new external steps at lower ground floor level to the side elevation; installation of 1no double glazed door to replace the existing window at upper ground floor level; installation of new railings and handrails to replace the existing and erection of an external staircase with landing from lower ground to upper ground floor level to the rear elevation; installation of 2no rooflights in the rear and side roofspaces; associated external alterations.

39 Ellerby Street London SW6 6EX

2016/05202/FUL

Installation of an external air conditioning unit in the side lightwell; installation of 9no solar panels above the main flat roof at roof level.

90 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW6 2TF

2016/05207/FUL

Change of use of part of the basement and ground floor level from retail (Class A1) into a two bedroom self-contained residential flat (Class C3); erection of a single storey rear extension to the rear and side of the existing back addition; demolition of existing single storey rear extension and replacement with external staircase and enclosure at first floor level to provide amenity space and access

store room and the installation of new doors to replace the existing window and door at ground floor level to the rear elevation. Reduction of shop signage and enlargement of glazing.

Electricity Substation Adjacent To Wilson's Road Talgarth Road London

2016/05213/ADV

Installation of 1no internally illuminated digital LED screen following the removal of existing advertisement screen fronting Talgarth Road elevation.

22 Sterndale Road London W14 0HS

2016/05239/FUL

Demolition of the existing building with the exception of front facade; erection of a replacement part two, part three and part four storey plus-basement single family dwellinghouse.

14 Rylett Road London W12 9NL

2016/05225/FUL

Demolition of existing two storey rear back additions and erection of a replacement two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the extended back addition; excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; replacement of existing dormer window with a new dormer window in the rear roofspace; installation of a new window at first floor level, replacement of existing windows with new windows at ground floor level to the side elevation; erection of a new front boundary wall; formation of a new vehicle crossover in connection with the relocation of the existing front off street vehicle parking space; conversion of the existing building comprising of 2no self-contained flats into a single family dwellinghouse; associated landscaping.

1 Margravine Gardens London W6 8RL

2016/05226/ADV

Display of an externally illuminated fascia sign at the front elevation.

124A St Stephen's Avenue London W12 8JD

2016/05142/FUL

Demolition of existing single storey storage building and erection of a replacement part one, part three storey plus-basement single family dwellinghouse comprising of 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

82 Old Oak Common Lane London W3 7DA

2016/05138/FUL

Change of use of first floor level from an office use (Class B1) to residential (Class C3); erection of 2no. additional floors at first and second floor levels following the demolition of the existing first floor level, in connection with the creation of 3no. self-contained flats (2no. one bedroom flats at first floor level and 1no. two bedroom flat at second floor level); demolition of existing ground floor rear extension and

to the proposed flats; and creation of 2no. car parking spaces underneath enclosure at ground floor level.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

Maisonette Basement And Ground 7 Lettice Street London SW6 4EH

2016/05241/FUL

Excavation and enlargement of the front lightwell; erection of steel balustrades at upper ground floor level to the front elevation. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 2nd January 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013

NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **2nd January 2017**. See below for ways of commenting on applications. Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**

Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page. You can also E-mail comments to: planningcomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to:

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082**.

Change of use of part of the basement and ground floor level from retail (Class A1) into a two bedroom self-contained residential flat (Class C3); erection of a single storey rear extension to the rear and side of the existing back addition; demolition of existing single storey rear extension and

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(PARSONS GREEN LANE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Gas Main works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the northbound section of Parsons Green Lane between its junctions with New Kings Road and Fulham Road.
- 2 alternative routes for traffic in article 2 would be in place via:
 - New Kings Road westbound, Munster Road eastbound, Fulham Road eastbound & diversion ends Parsons Green Lane.
 - New Kings Road eastbound, Harwood Road northbound, Fulham Road westbound & diversion ends Parsons Green Lane.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 23rd January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Monday 23rd January 2017 and last until Saturday 1st April 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 8th day of December 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(BLYTHE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate carriageway improvement works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Blythe Road, Hammersmith.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Olympia Way or via Brook Green.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 13th January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Friday 13th January 2017 and continue to occur at various dates until 19th December 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 8th day of December 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(DU CANE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate traffic signal modernisation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload at the junction of Old Oak Common Lane and Du Cane Road.
- 2 alternative routes for traffic in article 2 would be in place via:
 - Follow A40 Western Avenue eastbound, turn left onto Wood Lane northbound, turn left onto Du Cane Road eastbound to normal route of traffic.
 - Southbound on Old Oak Common Lane, across A40 Western Avenue, southbound on Old Oak Road, keep right to follow East Acton Lane, follow around back on to Old Oak Common Lane northbound, across the A40 Western Avenue, follow Old Oak Common Lane northbound turn right on to Du Cane Road to normal route of traffic.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 9th January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Monday 9th January 2017 and last for 7 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 8th day of December 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways



Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(ROSTREVOR ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate carriageway and footway excavation works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Rostrevor Road at its junctions with Fulham Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 19th January 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Thursday 19th January 2017 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 8th day of December 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO.2) ORDER 2016

- NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham made the above Order under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
- The general nature and effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Electric Vehicle Charging Places) (Amendment No. 2) Order 2016 is to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Electric Vehicle Charging Places) Order 2016 by introducing designated Electric Vehicle charging bays on the roads listed in the schedule to this notice.
- A copy of the Orders, which will come into operation on Wednesday 7th December 2016 and other relevant documents can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, until the end of a period of 6 weeks from the date on which the Orders are made, in the offices of the Transport and Highways Department, Environmental Services, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.
- Any person desiring to question the validity of the Orders or of any provision provided therein on the grounds that it is not within the relevant powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or that any of the relevant requirements thereof or any relevant regulations made thereunder have not been complied with in relation to the Orders, may within six weeks of the date on which the Orders are made, make application for the purpose to the High Court

Dated this 8th day of November 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Schedule:

Black's Road, Caxton Road, Peterborough Road, Lalor Street, North End Road, Ranelagh Gardens and Winslow Road

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(ST PETER'S SQUARE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of St Peter's Square at its junction with Neyot Gardens.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 23rd January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Monday 23rd January 2017 and last for 26 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 8th day of December 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A501 GLA ROAD (OLD MARYLEBONE ROAD, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2016

- Transport for London having consulted the City of Westminster hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable drainage installation works to take place on A501 Old Marylebone Road.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
 - entering, exiting or proceeding on Chapel Street from outside No. 48 Chapel Street and its junction with Old Marylebone Road (local access will be maintained between its junction with Transept Street and No. 48 Chapel Street);
 - exiting on Harcourt Street at its junction with Old Marylebone Road (local access will be maintained to Harcourt Street between its junctions with York Street and Old Marylebone Road);
 - stopping on Old Marylebone Road from No. 302 Old Marylebone Road to a point opposite its junction with Homer Row;
- The Order will also
 - suspend one-way operation on Harcourt Street between its junction with York Street and No. 16 Harcourt Street to make it two-way operational;
 - suspend one-way operation on York Street between its junctions with Seymour Place and Harcourt Street to make it two-way operational;
 - provide local access only on York Street between its junctions of Seymour Place and Harcourt Street.

The Order will be effective between 9th January 2017 and 27th January 2017, each night from 10.00 PM to 5.00 AM or when those works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibitions are in force alternative routes will be indicated by traffic signs via: (for vehicles wishing to enter Old Marylebone Road from Chapel Street) Transept Street onto normal route of travel; (For vehicles wishing to enter Old Marylebone Road from Harcourt) Seymour Place, Marylebone Road or Seymour Place, Crawford Street onto normal route of travel.

Dated this 13th day of December 2016

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management-Operations,
Transport for London, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON

PETER JOHN WARNE
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 3, Elm Grove House, 20 Pipe Gardens W6 7DR, who died on 08/07/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 21/02/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(OVERSTONE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Overstone Road between its junctions with Glenthorne Road and No. 1 Overstone Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Glenthorne Road, Hammersmith Grove, Adie Road, Overstone Road, Kilmarsh Road and Iffley Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 3rd November 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 3rd December 2016 and last for 2 days. Back up dates are scheduled for either Saturday 3rd December, 2016, Saturday 7th January 2017 or Saturday 14th January 2017. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 3rd day of November 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Classified

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Liver cancer claims life of member of Blues' first championship-winning team

FORMER Chelsea winger Peter Brabrook, a member of the club's first championship-winning team, has died from liver cancer at the age of 79.

Brabrook, who was snared from under the nose of his local club West Ham United by Chelsea scout Jimmy Thompson, made his debut for Ted Drake's side as a 17-year-old in March 1955.

Brabrook said: "Ted was a very honest man, fair but hard. He demanded everything and used to smash cups on the walls in the dressing room. He ruled by fear but his record as a player at Arsenal before the war was beyond compare.

"I remember one training session in the rain at Stamford Bridge when we were putting in crosses for heading practice and Ted arrived in a bespoke suit with a silk tie and new shoes. He looked immaculate. Anyway, we didn't take much notice

until we heard him shout 'F***** head it!' and before we knew it he was making his way through the mud to the penalty area, shouting 'Put one in'. When the cross was whipped in he went flying through the air and absolutely battered this ball into the back of the net before landing in a pile of mud which covered him from head to toe. 'That's how you head a ball'.

"He would punch himself in the centre of his forehead to show everyone where to head the ball. Deep down, though, he had a wonderful heart.

"I was one of his favourites, along with Roy Bentley and Frankie Blundstone. Basically, he loved anyone who would put a shift in and he really looked after me when I was called up to do my national service."

Despite Brabrook playing in two more games before the title was clinched in May 1955, The Football



Peter Brabrook

League deemed he was not entitled to receive a First Division winners' medal.

But recognition came in the summer of 1958, when he gained the first of his three

England caps – alongside Fulham's Johnny Haynes – against the Soviet Union in the World Cup finals at Gothenburg, Sweden. His other two appearances were both away, to Northern Ireland later that year and Spain in 1960.

Over the course of eight seasons Greenwich-born Brabrook scored 57 goals in 271 games in all competitions before the arrival of Tommy Docherty provoked a move across the capital.

"We didn't see eye to eye but, then again, no-one liked him. He just wasn't anyone's cup of tea. He didn't want me to go to another London club but I knew that Ron Greenwood wanted me at West Ham."

Brabrook left SW6 in the summer of 1962 in a £35,000 deal. It was a hefty fee at the time but Hammers' manager Greenwood, also member of Chelsea's league-winning side, knew what he was buying.

The tricky right-winger proved excellent value by playing 214 league and cup matches, scoring 43 goals, in a successful six-year spell that included his cross for Ron Boyce to head the winning goal in the 1964 FA Cup final against Preston.

Brabrook left Upton Park in the summer of 1968 to complete his league career with their near-neighbours Orient, where he made a further 72 league and nine cup appearances (six goals) and played a key role in the Brisbane Road club's Third Division championship-winning side of 1969-70.

Brabrook had one season with Southern League side Romford before hanging up his boots at the end of 1971-72 to go into coaching and management with Ford United and Billericay Town.

He rejoined West Ham as a youth coach and had been scouting for the East London club in recent years.

Brabrook had suffered a liver tumour and died in St Luke's Hospice, Basildon – not far from his Laindon Hills, Essex home – last Saturday. He leaves a son, Wayne, and daughter, Donna, plus grandchildren Daisy, Rosie and Peter.

Rangers rocked by Chelsea loanee



NOW even Rotherham United, who are by far the worst team in the Championship, stopped handing out early Christmas gifts on the day Queens Park Rangers visited South Yorkshire.

In fact the managerless Millers, marooned 13 points from the safety line and rock bottom of the second tier, turned Scrooge on their lack-lustre visitors by keeping only their second clean sheet in 20 matches this season – since beating Rangers' West London neighbours Brentford by the same 1-0 scoreline on August 20. Bah humbug!

Immediately after his third consecutive defeat since returning to the club, their worst losing run since Harry Redknapp was in charge in February 2014, QPR manager Ian Holloway said: "It's a horrible feeling. I hate losing games, as we all do.

"The second half didn't promise as much as the first half. And I think that's what disappointed us all – the fans included."

Rotherham, under the temporary custody of caretaker manager Paul Warne, claimed their first win in 16 matches – and only their second of a miserable season – when Izzy Brown, on loan from Chelsea, netted his third of the campaign, scoring in the 24th minute.

"The goal changed the game and then we allowed them to hang on to their lead far too easily. That's what disappointed me," said Holloway.

"Our shoulders dropped after the goal and that needs to change."



Ian Holloway's expression sums up gloomy times at QPR
Picture: Rob Newell

There were reportedly at least 825 QPR supporters at the New York Stadium but they must have wished they were freezing amid the bright lights of NYC after seeing their team lose to Rotherham for the first time since Emlyn Hughes was in charge there in March 1982.

Holloway said: "I want to apologise to the fans who travelled here in great numbers.

"We didn't produce the 90-minute performance I was hoping for."

"I thought we did well in the first half. If we'd have got a goal in that first period, I'm sure we'd have got something from the game."

"The goal was poorly conceded. You can't concede like that from a throw-in. That was very disappointing. We had three or four players who

could've stopped it but we don't make things easy for ourselves.

"We created chances and looked a threat in the first half. But the lack of chance creation in the second half was very disappointing."

The bare statistics don't lie. Although QPR enjoyed the majority of possession (66 per cent), it was Rotherham who had more shots – 17, and 10 on target.

It's not as if the next couple of fixtures hold much promise for beleaguered Rangers, who have slipped to 18th, three points off the relegation zone.

Derby County, flourishing on an impressive six-match winning run under new boss Steve McLaren, visit Loftus Road tomorrow night looking to cement their place in the top five.

On Sunday (noon), 13th-placed Aston Villa visit W12 buoyed by their late 1-0 victory over Wigan Athletic last weekend, having lost only one of their last seven matches under Steve Bruce.

And on December 27 (12.30pm), Rangers travel to Brighton & Hove Albion, who are hanging on to the coattails of leaders Newcastle United, a point off top spot.

With only one win from his side's last seven games, Holloway has challenged his players to show more belief.

"They are very disappointed," he said. "They need to believe in themselves a bit more and show a bit more commitment to doing the things we are practising on the training ground."

"We look like we are taking big hits when we concede. We've got to just get on with it and show a bit more belief."

Tony McDonald

WIN stadium tour with Chelsea legend Ron 'Chopper' Harris

EVER fancied having a behind-the-scenes tour of Stamford Bridge with a true Chelsea legend? Well, now you can.

You can either buy a ticket to ensure you will be with Ron Harris, or enter our great competition for you and a friend to win a chance to be with the former Blues skipper who led Chelsea to FA Cup and European glory in the early 1970s.

If you think that by December 28 you will have had enough Christmas turkey and need to get out and about, why not treat yourself and perhaps a family member or friend to a post-Christmas prezzie of a ticket to join "Chopper" on a tour of the club's famous stadium?

During the Legends Tour you'll have the chance to spend time with Harris, who has played more games than anyone else for the club, and hear his experiences first hand, as he leads you around the players' dressing rooms, Press room, tunnel, dugout and much more.

The tour includes:

- Behind-the-scenes tour, including access to the dressing rooms and the players' tunnel.
- Personal anecdotes from Ron "Chopper" Harris.
- Signed personalised photo of Ron "Chopper" Harris.
- Q&A session.
- Access to the Chelsea FC Museum, including museum guidebook and audio guide.

If that seems like the perfect way to finish the year, then here are the details:

The next available tour is Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 10.30am.

Prices are £80 for adults. Spaces are limited, so book online now by calling 0371 811 1955 or email tours@chelseafc.com.

As a special treat for all readers of the *London Weekly News*, we have two tickets to win. To stand a chance of joining Ron Harris, answer the following question:

How many league appearances did Ron Harris make for the mighty Blues?

Email your response to cfcjourno@gmail.com by 4pm on Friday (please put "Ron Harris Legends Tour" in the subject line).

All winning entries will be entered into a hat and a winner chosen for the two tickets.

There is no alternative prize and the winner will have to make his or her own way to and from Stamford Bridge.

Along with your answer, please include your name and contact telephone number.

Good luck.

Paul Lagan

London Weekly News

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Gary Cahill and Diego Costa have had plenty to celebrate in recent months, as Blues continue to top the table and the Spanish striker heads the Premier League scorechart

Picture: Rob Newell



Floyd Ayite scored his first Fulham goals on Saturday – against Wolves, including the last-gasp equaliser

Picture: Rob Newell

Molineux mayhem ends level

Focus on Craven Cottage

AN eight-goal thriller for the fans or a manager's nightmare? It depends on your standpoint.

Fulham head coach Slavisa Jokanovic certainly didn't take any pre-Christmas cheer from Saturday's 4-4 draw at Wolverhampton Wanderers, even though his team salvaged a point in injury-time.

The Serb was left scratching his head in bemusement after seeing his side come from behind, only to surrender a 3-1 lead.

"I don't know how to react after this," said Jokanovic. "We were leading 3-1 and after that we nearly lost the game."

"Then after that we battled back. I don't know whether the feeling I have is whether we lost today or we won."

Perhaps someone should have clarified for him the fact that this ridiculous match ended all square. It made about as much sense as Fulham abandoning their white shirts to wear red against a team in their traditional amber, which bizarrely caused more of a colour clash than would have been the case had they both turned out in their usual kits.

Revitalised by their 2-1 win at Queens Park Rangers, Wolves led after 22 minutes through Kortney Hause's header. Stefan Johansen levelled 10 minutes later with a first-time, right-foot shot into the top-left corner.

Fulham then struck twice more in the space of three minutes. Floyd Ayite rose at the far post to score his first goal since joining the club, and then Tom Cairney volleyed superbly into the top corner from the edge of the box – a prime contender for the club's goal of the season.

The visitors were looking good for their fifth away win of the season in the Championship but crumbled under a second-half onslaught.

Two goals in nine minutes, from Matt Doherty and Ivan Cavaleiro, brought Wolves level before the home side thought they had snatched victory when Dave Edwards made it 4-3 in the 90th minute.

Fulham had the last word on an amazing Black Country afternoon, though, when Ayite headed the dramatic late equaliser from inside the six-yard box.

An exasperated Jokanovic recognised familiar failings when he said: "Generally, we controlled many things. We could have scored more goals and been more clinical again.

"We did not kill the game. We had many crosses into the box and they were stronger than us. We did not manage our situation very well in the last half an hour."

"If we want to be a more competitive and important team, we need to find a solution to this kind of approach."

"We conceded two very simple goals. I don't know why it caused so many problems."

"In this situation we need to be more solid. We expected this kind of situation and we have to improve that side of the game."

Fulham will be expected to return to winning ways when Rotherham United visit Craven Cottage tonight.

Tony McDonald

Cahill credits 'on fire' Costa

Diego rivals Didier for cult hero status at Blues



This week at
STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

CHELSEA defender Gary Cahill reckons goal-scoring sensation Diego Costa is the best striker in the world and has elevated himself to almost the same legendary status of former Blues hero Didier Drogba.

Costa, who scored the sensational winner that downed dour West Bromwich Albion at Stamford Bridge on Sunday to extend Chelsea's winning run to nine matches and keep them three points clear at the head of the Premier League, is now top of the scoring charts with 12 league goals – so it's no surprise that the Brazil-born Spain striker is highly valued by Cahill and the Blues faithful.

Cahill said: "At this moment in time he is right up there (among the best) in world football with the other clinical finishers."

"The statistics don't lie and he keeps proving himself with his goals. We just hope that continues for us."

"Everyone is playing well, that's the most positive thing. He is getting the goals which are important to us but everyone is contributing to this run."

"Everyone is playing really well, individually, at the moment and that's what's giving us the success that we're having."

The England centre-back has also played with legendary striker Drogba at Chelsea and recognises that the fans are starting to love Costa just as much as they adore the Ivorian star.

"Yes, of course, because he is banging goals in every week," said Cahill. "He is winning us matches."

"Didier was a huge figure, goal-scoring wise, and with his personality on and off the pitch."

"You need strikers like that at Chelsea and Diego has fitted into that role nicely. Since he's been at the club he's scored goals – but this season he's on fire."

Costa's goalscoring has never been in question, unlike his temperament and discipline – but he has not had a booking since the defeat to Arsenal in September and one more yellow card before the end of the year could lead to a suspension. Has Cahill seen any change in him?

"He is exactly the same fella," said the 30-year-old Derbyshire-born centre-back. "The same guy from when he first came to the club."

"But he is not getting as frustrated as he usually would. I could see in the first half against West Brom that he was getting a little bit frustrated but he is channelling his energy in the right direction now."

"He has been patient, because he knows if he gets one chance he will stick it away."

Sunday's dull game was deadlocked, with neither side creating any clear chances of note, until the 76th minute, when Costa chased a harmless-looking ball from Cesc Fabregas into the right-sided channel.

His presence was enough to unsettle Albion defender Gareth McAuley – and although the angle was acute, Costa's left-foot strike flew into the roof of the net.

"His goal was the result of work-rate, effort and class rolled into one moment," said Cahill. "He had no

right to score that goal whatsoever. The next minute it's in the top corner. That's just how he has been playing this season."

The hard-earned victory and seventh clean sheet in nine league games leaves Blues three points clear of second-placed Arsenal. Did Cahill derive more satisfaction from this latest result compared to the flair that produced high-scoring wins against Manchester United (4-0) and Everton (5-0)?

"A win is a win for us," he said. "But I think it does prove how hard it is to get three points in this league."

"Personally, you work so hard to get three points, which is how it should be. They made it tough, we knew that they were going to sit in."

"They played direct at times, wasted a bit of time too. It proved difficult but we got the goal."

Chelsea have shown that they can win ugly as well as with class, which serves as a warning to their title rivals.

Cahill said: "It was difficult to break them down. The longer the game went (without Chelsea scoring), the more confidence they had to keep a clean sheet. They got bodies behind the ball – it proved difficult."

"The manager went to a four (at the back) when we got our goal. We switched to 4-4-2, then back to a five, so we had different solutions."

"We worked well, kept patient to get the goal and then found the brilliance (from Costa)."

"The game needed a bit of individual brilliance, because they were so well organised, and that's exactly what happened."

A lot of talk this season has been on shapes and formation – and at

Chelsea it is no different. But Cahill said they had not been working on a specific formation to counter West Brom.

"No, we have been working on the shape we have been playing since the Arsenal (defeat)," he said.

"So I think it's easy for the lads to adapt back to a 4-4-2 – it's natural for everybody to play in that system."

"The thing we have been working on is the formation we have adapted to now. It was quite easy to switch and we went back late in the game to a five, which gave us that extra bit of protection when they were pushing people forward."

Chelsea have two away games coming up, tomorrow at Sunderland and against Crystal Palace on Saturday (12.30pm), before returning to Stamford Bridge on Boxing Day to face AFC Bournemouth (3pm).

All three matches are eminently winnable, so is there a sense that Chelsea are unbeatable at the moment?

Cahill was typically coy about giving a "Yes" or "No" answer but is clearly happy with the way things are working out.

"It's a nice feeling when you go into a game off the back of the winning record and statistics we have," he said.

"We are scoring goals and keeping clean sheets for fun. It takes that pressure away from you collectively as a group. The forwards aren't feeling lots of pressure to score lots of goals. It's working."

"It's a good feeling to go out with the confidence in the players and in the squad that we've got and try to deliver the performances and results we have been doing."